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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 217 | THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
At this point, do you support a one-year extension in the federalization of local immigration?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 9, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Noynoy for President

The son of late Cory Aquino has announced he will run for president next year.

ASIA...Page 16

Debt-Ridden

Annie Leibovitz risks losing the copyright to her images–and her entire life's work.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Naraja dismisses charges vs 2 Corrections officers. **PAGE 3**
Four gubernatorial bets to face off on Fund problems. **PAGE 7**

Palacios belies inflated lease contract with NMI Water Task Force

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Contrary to allegations, the amount and terms of a leasehold agreement between House Speaker Arnold Palacios' A&M Corp. and the CNMI Water Task Force for a warehouse in Lower Base have remained the same despite the latest 10-month extension that will expire on Nov. 12, 2009, according to the official.

A&M Corp., which is owned by Palacios (R-Saipan) and his wife Maria S. Palacios, has been receiving a monthly payment of $4,320 from the govern-

See PALACIOS on Page 4

Surfboard found, surfer still missing

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan, left, and EMO Response and Recovery staff Jayson P. San Nicolas show the nine-foot long board that was used by the missing surfer, Hirofumi Matsumoto. A DFS employee found the surfboard Tuesday on the shoreline of Chalan Laulau and surrendered it to authorities yesterday.

Inos extends search operation until today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The nine-foot surfboard of a missing surfer has been recovered, but the search teams failed yet again to locate the victim yesterday.

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos extended the search and recovery operation until today, Thursday, after a meeting with the victim's parents and Japan Consulate officials yesterday at 1:30pm.

See SURFBOARD on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Mr. and Mrs. Fumihiko and Fujie Matsumoto observe the search and recovery operation for their missing son, Hirofumi Matsumoto, yesterday afternoon at Sugar Dock.

WITHOUT NEW QC INCENTIVES:

Call center may move, recall expansion plans

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The only call center business on island may recall its expansion plans and move to either Guam or the Philippines if it fails to get the additional incentives it is asking for under its existing qualifying certificate.

Rob Harrel, executive director

See CALL CENTER on Page 4

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett presents the updated concept of the "Beach Road Corridor Energy Efficient Transportation and Zoning Guidelines Project" during a meeting with members of the House of Representatives yesterday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Beach Road plan scaled back from $1.6M to $680K

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Beach Road improvement project's plan and zoning guidelines development has been scaled back by almost 58 percent or from $1.6 million to $680,000 due to other projects and programs tapping into the same source

See BEACH ROAD on Page 4

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Local

Man gets 18 months for tax return scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court imposed yesterday a one-year-and-six-month prison term on a man who helped prepare fraudulent tax returns.

After serving his prison sentence, Luciano L. Dereas will be placed on three years of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson ordered Dereas to pay a $100 court assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community service.

"Defendant shall not incur new credit charges or open additional lines of credit without the approval of the U.S. Probation Office," Munson said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler had recommended a sentence of 18 months for Dereas. F. Matthew Smith, counsel for Dereas, asked for 12 months.

In June 2009, Dereas, also known as Julius Dereas, was charged with one count of aiding and assisting the filing of a false tax return. He pleaded guilty.

According to the charging information, Dereas on Sept. 6, 2006, aided and assisted in preparing a person's U.S. individual income tax return form 1040A to the Internal Revenue Service for calendar year 2005.

The income tax return was false and fraudulent in that it represented the filer as having an address in Arkansas and that the filer was entitled to an Earned Income Tax Credit of $5,480.

Dereas knew that the filer did not live in Arkansas and would not be able to receive any refund without listing a false address.

The plea agreement stated that Dereas prepared 90 federal tax returns for CNMI residents for the 2004, 2005, and 2006 tax years. The tax returns stated the CNMI residents resided in the continental U.S.

The tax returns claimed the CNMI residents were entitled to refunds—mainly the result of claimed earned income tax credits—of over $200,000 from the IRS.

The return filed by Dereas that forms the basis for one count in the information requested a refund of less than $10,000.

In 2007, at least four persons were charged with conspiring with other persons to defraud the IRS of thousands of dollars in the same tax refund scheme. All four pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison.

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Naraja dismisses charges vs 2 Corrections officers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja has dismissed the criminal charges against two Corrections officers who were accused of beating up an inmate inside the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

Naraja dropped the charges last week after the Office of the Attorney General moved to dismiss without prejudice or without finality the case against Corrections Sergeant Arnold Kaipat Seman and Corrections II Manuel Quitano. This means the prosecution can re-file the case.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch made the decision to drop the charges. Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham concurred with the decision.

The government had charged Seman and Quitano with assault and battery, and misconduct in public office. Quitano was also charged with obstructing justice.

Lynch said the Commonwealth believes this criminal case should be dismissed so that all of Seman's and Quitano's actions can be addressed by one adjudicating body rather than having two somewhat parallel proceedings: the Superior Court and the DOC administrative process.

"Upon dismissal of this action the Commonwealth will be referring the matter for the commencement of formal action within DOC," Lynch said.

Lynch said the acts complained of happened during an incident when a belligerent inmate was not compliant with the rules of conduct regarding detained persons.

He said the prosecution believes the conduct of the officers also did not conform to the rules governing the conduct of Corrections officers in their dealings with inmates.

Lynch said DOC has administrative procedures in place to address actions of Corrections personnel that violate the standards of conduct imposed by Corrections rules and regulations.

"This case also presents issues regarding apparent violations of the rules and regulations governing the DOC that are addressable in an administrative proceeding, but do not fall within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Superior Court," he said.

The White Collar Crimes/ Public Corruption Task Force investigated the case based on a request from DOC's Capt. Georgia Cabrera.

According to the investigation conducted by Juan Santos of the Task Force, Seman and Quitano, both officers assigned to Correction Emergency Response Team, assaulted inmate Robert Jake Palacios.

The assault allegedly happened inside the Isolation Unit at DOC on June 17, 2009.

On June 26, 2009, Palacios' mother wrote a letter to the editor about the beatings that he suffered. The letter was published in the newspapers.

Then acting DOC commissioner Dolores San Nicolas immediately talked with Palacios to confirm whether he was indeed assaulted. San Nicolas then instructed Capt. Cabrera to call the OAG.

Seman and Quitano were not taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing because they immediately posted bail after being arrested.

Ex-convict gets 10 yrs., 6 mos. in ice case, violating probation

The federal court ordered a man yesterday to spend 10 years and six months in prison for distributing methamphetamine or "ice" and for violating his probation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Manuel Aldan Sablan Jr. to seven years and six months for one count of distribution and one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

After completing his sentence, Sablan will be placed on six years of supervised release. He was also required to perform 200 hours of community service during the probationary period.

In a separate case, Munson yesterday revoked Sablan's supervised release and sentenced him to 36 months in prison.

The 36 months is in addition to the seven years and six months term imposed in the "ice" case.

Sablan and two other men were indicted in 2008 for conspiring to distribute "ice" in 2007. All pleaded guilty.

In the revocation case, the U.S. government moved to revoke Sablan's supervised release in connection with his 1998 conviction in an "ice" case.

The prosecution filed the motion after the U.S. Probation Office found out that Sablan violated the probation terms when he committed the latest "ice" case, among other violations. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Guam confirms second H1N1 death

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services confirmed yesterday another H1N1-related death on the island—the second thus far.

In a statement issued just before 5pm yesterday, Public Health director J. Peter Roberto said his department received confirmation late Wednesday afternoon of an H1N1-related death.

"During the course of regular surveillance activities, DPHSS sent 13 specimens to an off-island lab for confirmatory testing. Of the 13 samples, six returned positive for H1N1, which included one positive case belonging to a patient who has since passed away.

:The deceased was between the ages of 5 and 24 years old and had severe preexisting health conditions. The department is in the process of contacting the next of kin before releasing any further details. Pending this notification I am asking for the public's patience and understanding at this time. We offer our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased individual," Roberto said.

Guam's first case of swine flu related death was announced at a news conference in Mangilao on July 20 this year. ***(PR)***

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BEACH ROAD

From Page 1

of federal funding, Zoning administrator Victor Barrett told members of the House of Representatives yesterday.

"We had to scale it back because money had already been committed to other projects," Barrett told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after his presentation to lawmakers.

The Zoning Office is tapping a portion of a $9.6 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy for the CNMI.

Barrett said about a million will also be needed for the engineering design and environmental studies.

Actual construction will be done in phases over a five-year period and may cost anywhere between $10 million and $15 million, he told lawmakers.

Under the "Beach Road Corridor Energy Efficient Transportation and Zoning Guidelines Project," the 6.5-mile stretch of road from the American Memorial Park in Garapan to the Pacific Islands Club Beach in San Antonio will be redeveloped to maximize its capacity for economic growth using energy efficient designs and infrastructure.

This may include the use of energy efficient vehicles on Beach Road.

The project focused on Beach Road because it has become the economic engine of Saipan and could become a model of sustainable development.

Barrett cited, for example, that most of the island' commerce is along Beach Road and 74 percent of hotel rooms are also on Beach Road. 50 percent of the island population also lives within a mile of it.

In his presentation, Barrett said the project will help lower energy use through conservation, update planning and zoning for energy efficiency in the building sector and transportation, reduce dependence on fossil fuel, and provide planning for energy saving infrastructure funding and development.

He said Beach Road will be redeveloped also to preserve limited rural lands for watersheds, farming, tourism, renewable energy, and quality eco-sensitive development.

"We can start in the next few weeks," Barrett told lawmakers, referring to the design development and zoning guidelines.

It will take 12 to 18 months to get the engineering design done, and additional 18 to 24 months to implement the zoning guidelines and additional design development.

Construction, including the installation of underground power and other utilities, will be done in phases in a five-year period.

Legislative support

Barrett said the project needs interagency cooperative effort, that's why the Zoning Office has been making presentations to key agencies like the Legislature.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said the project "is a good start" to help the economy grow.

Palacios filed House Joint Resolution 16-30 to support both the development and implementation of the Beach Road Corridor Improvement Project, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The resolution urges different agencies to work in partnership to develop the Beach Road project, enter into stakeholder agreements, develop comprehensive project management plans, and aggressively compete for available federal funds.

It also encourages Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Department of Commerce, in concert with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) to work with the U.S. Department of Energy to develop cooperative agreements and letters of intent to develop and implement the project.

Many of the at least 11 House members present at yesterday's presentation in the House chamber expressed support to the Beach Road project and to the resolution.

Rep. David Apatang and Rep. Joe Reyes said they hope the project will be completed in five or fewer years. Reyes (R-Saipan) also asked Barrett to look into the amount of public and private land compensation that the project may entail.

In August, Barrett made presentations on the project based on a $1.6 million energy efficiency and conservation block grant they applied for and should have been used for the design development, among other things. This project phase's cost was scaled back last week, he said.

CALL CENTER

From Page 1

of PTI Services Inc.'s contact centers division, has asked the Commonwealth Development Authority to modify its QC, saying the terms and conditions of the current certificate are not enough for the company to overcome the challenges the business faces.

In a letter to CDA, Harrel is asking for 100 percent abatement in the business gross revenue tax for 20 years, a five-year excise tax abatement, and 10-year income tax abatement.

He said the additional incentives will help the company defray the expected impact of higher labor wages due to the impending federalization, which may be as high as 30 percent.

CDA economic development analyst Carline Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the board has yet to decide on the company's request. The CDA board is scheduled to review the proposal on Sept. 24.

Sablan said: "We will weighed everything on the application, such as how long it will take for the company to recoup its investments."

Over the past few months, Harrel said, the company has been working hard to expand and promote the call center operation. However, its cost projections, despite the current QC incentives, continue to put them at a competitive cost disadvantage to companies from other jurisdictions offering similar services.

"PTI Services would very much like to expand its operations in the CNMI but unless we can do so on a cost effective basis, we will have no alternative but to consider other locations such as Guam or the Philippines, which may provide a cost advantage," Harrel told CDA executive director Manuel Sablan in a letter to the agency.

Harrel said they have been invited to expand their business to other jurisdictions, but PTI has declined to do so "as it wants to work with the CNMI government on a QC [that] would allow them to expand in its own hometown and provide needed job opportunities."

"Our commitment remains with the partnership between PTI Services and the CNMI government to increase jobs and positively impact the economy," he said.

The approval of the company's QC modification, he said, will allow PTI Services to successfully compete with other jurisdictions and create more jobs for local residents.

He cited the job fair the company hosted last month, where over 400 applicants submitted applications for potential jobs at the call center. He said this means the community needs more jobs, which PTI Services wants to fulfill.

"Supporting our request would not only assist us but would favorably reflect upon the government's willingness to support the private sector in creating much needed job opportunities," he said.

Even with the new tax abatements, Harrel said the CNMI government will still benefit from the call center's expansion in the form of increased payroll taxes and overcall economic stimulus resulting from the effect on goods purchased by employees and their spending in the community.

PTI's past request for additional incentives was denied in the past. Harrell hopes the new request has more than sufficient basis to be granted.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved the call center's qualifying certificate in July for an initial investment of $3.2 million.

SURFBOARD

From Page 1

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said that Duty Free Shoppers employee Jeff Taylor and another DFS staff, Boyet Centeno, showed up at 8:40am yesterday at the authorities' command post in Sugar Dock to turn over the surfboard.

Tarkong said it was Centeno who found the long board Tuesday at 8:30am on the shoreline in front of the B&R Auto Shop and $3 Store along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau.

Centeno told police he was fishing in the area when he saw the surfboard wash up on the beach. After several minutes, when nobody claimed the surfboard, he took it home.

Centeno later read in the newspapers about the missing surfer so he informed his boss, Taylor, about the surfboard he found.

Police learned that the surfboard had been rented from a surf shop in Garapan.

Police obtained the serial numbers from the surf shop owner and confirmed it was the same one rented by the missing Hirofumi Matsumoto (DPS earlier identified the victim as Matusumoto).

Tarkong said police officer Roy Kaipat confirmed spotting the surfboard floating on the reef line near Sugar Dock Monday night. Tarkong said the surf was too hazardous at the time and the surfboard was not recovered.

Yesterday was supposedly the last day of the search, now considered a search and recovery operation.

Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan said that after meeting with the victim's family and Japan Consulate officials, acting Gov. Inos extended the search until 6pm today, Thursday.

Matsumoto was an employee of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. His wife, Ami, is also a staff of a tour agency at Hyatt.

The victim's parents—Fumihiko and Fujie Matsumoto—arrived on Saipan early Tuesday morning after Ami called them about the accident.

The parents, who were seen at the Sugar Dock channel yesterday afternoon, told *Saipan Tribune* they are still hopeful that their son is alive.

Pangelinan said members of the Northern Marianas Diving Association will volunteer to assist in today's diving operation.

Pangelinan said the bottom was clear yesterday so search teams were able to search underwater from the Sugar Dock area all the way to San Antonio.

The search team included the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, four certified divers from the Coastal Resources Management, and two crew members. The DPS Boating Safety's Dive Rescue Team led the search, along with EMO, DPS Fire Search and Rescue Unit. The Boating Safety dive rescue team has nine divers in rotating shifts conducting surface and dive searches.

A U.S. Navy helicopter that assisted in the operation since Sunday night did not join yesterday's operation.

Police investigation showed that on Sunday at 4pm, Matsumoto was surfing with a male friend behind Aquarius Hotel. The strong current pulled the two outside the reef. The friend managed to paddle back to the shoreline, but Matsumoto could not be found.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

ment's Water Task Force for the use of their warehouse in Lower Base for the storage of task force materials and equipment.

This monthly amount has not changed since 2005 when the original sublease contract was signed, he said.

A&M Corp. responded to a bid request and won the contract from the Water Task Force in 2005. Since then, the Water Task Force has been renewing the contract through change orders.

The latest change order was entered on Dec. 16, 2008 and completed on Jan. 7, 2009, and involves a 10-month contract extension. This means that for 10 months, A&M Corp. will be paid $4,320 a month for a total of $43,200. This "cost of change order" is reflected on page 1 of Contract No. 355-OS Contract Changer Order #5.

The original annual contract amount was $51,840, which is equivalent to a 12-month payment of $4,320 each month.

The contract was renewed and extended a few times since then, until the total contract price reached $190,080, an equivalent of 44 months for $4,320 each month.

"Utility, maintenance and other overhead costs have risen considerably for us since 2005, but the terms of the lease agreement have remained the same," Palacios said in a statement yesterday.

The latest change order of a 10-month extension amounting to $43,200 brings the total amount of contract and change orders to $233,280.

But Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz alleged that Palacios' A&M Corp. got a whopping increase in lease amount from "$51,840 in 2005 to $233,280 in January 2009."

He sent e-mails to lawmakers, other government officials and the media about his allegations.

Cruz also asked the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the change order since the Water Task Force has been receiving funds from the federal government.

"I am basing my statements on the figures on documents," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday when asked for comment.

Palacios, in a separate interview, said that if only Cruz communicated with him about these figures, he would have interpreted the data properly.

Palacios, a candidate for lieutenant governor, is Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider's running mate in the Nov. 7 election.

Cruz, a candidate for senator, is a supporter of gubernatorial candidate Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero.

Public land

Cruz said "it is not right" that Palacios' A&M Corp. leased the public land in 1990 for $13,000 a year for 25 years, and then subleased it to the government, through the Water Task Force, for $51,840 a year.

Palacios said A&M Corp. went through all the proper procedures to lease the public land, and sublease the warehouse facility.

A&M Corp. is a warehousing business that the Palacios couple owned and operated since 1990. The warehouse is located in Lower Base industrial area, on commercial public land that the company has leased since 1990.

The Palacios couple had developed and maintained the commercial property over the years, subleased the warehouse to mostly private interests, and paid their rental and tax obligations to the government "consistently, in full and on time."

In his letter yesterday, Palacios hoped to address "concerns that have recently been raised by several individuals regarding a certain commercial public land lease by A & M Corporation."

"The commercial land lease agreement with the Department of Public Lands stipulates annual rental payments to the agency of 8 percent of fair market value per year payable in quarterly installments for a period of 25 years beginning in 1990. The land lease is a public record, identified as Document Number 90-5230 at the CNMI Recorder's Office and should be readily available for public inspection at the Department of Public Lands. I am happy to provide a copy of the lease to anyone who wishes to review it," said Palacios.

In 2005, in response to a Request for Quotes for a warehouse storage facility issued by the CNMI Water Task Force, Palacios said A&M Corp. submitted a quote, and was awarded the contract.

"That lease agreement has been renewed on an annual basis at the request of the Water Task Force for the same amount every month of $4,320. The lease agreement provides the Water Task Force with 9,600 square feet of indoor storage space, outside storage, as well as full utility coverage and property maintenance at our own expense," he said.

The House speaker said the Request for Quotes, the quote that A&M Corp. submitted, the lease agreement, and subsequent extensions are all public records, and should be available through the CNMI Water Task Force or through him.

"In addition to the public records mentioned above, my wife and I have maintained records pertaining to our operations going back to nearly 20 years. I invite anyone who would like to review those documents to contact us. I welcome the opportunity to address any concerns and answer any questions about our business," he said.

Cruz, in a phone interview, alleged that Palacios' contract with the Water Task Force—which Cruz said is an entity almost inseparable from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.—"somehow raises conflict of interest" when it comes to voting on pieces of legislation that affects CUC.

Palacios reiterated that the "records would speak for themselves" and that Cruz has the right to share his opinion.

DPL asked to designate 70 hectares of land for FTZ

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After debating whether it is proper to ask for a designation of public lands for free trade zones when there is not even a Free Trade Zone Authority or an FTZ board as required by law, the House of Representatives adopted on Tuesday a resolution authored by Rep. Victor B. Hocog.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who was the sole opposition to Hocog's House Resolution 16-91, argued that the House should first re-examine Public Law 12-20 or the Free Trade Zone Act before moving forward with a request to designate lands for free trade zones.

HR 16-91 asks the Department of Public Lands to designate 30 hectares of public land on Tinian, 30 hectares of public land on Rota, and 10 hectares of public land on Saipan as Free Trade Zones to be administered by the mayors of the respective islands, and to transfer fee simple interest of such public lands to each respective municipality.

Sablan noted that at this time, there is no functioning Free Trade Zone Authority, as mandated by the Act, which would be responsible for assisting businesses in coordinating with regulatory agencies, receiving applications for free trade zones, issuing licenses, identifying/designating additional free trade zones in the CNMI in collaboration with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Board of Public Lands (now DPL) and other agencies, and regulating operations within the free trade zones.

Rep. Tina Sablan, standing, clarifies some points with Rep. Victor Hocog, left, on Hocog's resolution asking the Department of Public Lands to designate 70 hectares of public lands for free trade zones, during Tuesday's session. At right is Rep. Ed Salas. Only Sablan opposed the resolution, which the House adopted.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

"Even if DPL agrees to designate land for the purposes of establishing FTZs, there would be no agency properly empowered to actually administer and regulate those FTZs," Sablan said.

Other House members, during Tuesday's session, said the resolution is "only a request" to DPL, and further suggested that passing the resolution might prompt the appointment of members to the Free Trade Zone Authority.

The Free Trade Zone Act seeks to stimulate the local economy through the creation of free trade zones, the creation of tax incentives, and the establishment of a public corporation to administer free trade zones.

HR 16-91 was one of the resolutions, bills, commemorative resolutions and committee reports adopted or passed by the House on Tuesday.

Six file candidacies for NMC student president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Six students have filed their candidacies to become the next president of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College.

The acceptance of applicants for the post ended Friday.

One of the six candidates is Miles Rodriguez, who is the acting Student Council chief.

Rodriguez confirmed her filing of candidacy, but refused to disclose the names of the other candidates.

She said a committee will check and evaluate the candidates' requirements to determine if they are eligible to run for the position.

This

If certified by the committee, this will be Rodriguez's first time to run as president of the council. Last year, she served as the ASNMC treasurer.

The election for a new set of ASNMC officers is on Sept. 14 at the college campus.

Rodriguez was named interim council president after the departure of Ivan Mereb, who was asked to quit the post after failing to maintain the grade requirement. By that time, Rodriguez was the only officer left in office. Three other council officials had resigned early this year.

To be an ASNMC officer, the student must be a regular member of a student organization and has a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 at the time of his or her candidacy, according to an early interview with Perry Inos Jr., NMC coordinator for student activities and leadership.

Once elected to the position, the officer must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 during his term of office or else he or she will be released from the post.

"Release" in the ASNMC bylaws is defined as dismissal from service.

Saipan Tribune was also told that an applicant must carry a minimum of six credits per semester with the exception of summer and must have successfully completed at least 12 credits of college level at NMC.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for Sai Mai Thai Noodle

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2009-0296, Tract No. 21732-R1

Date: **September 17, 2009, Thursday**
Time: **6:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.**

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, September 18, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barret, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

House, Senate panels poised to back Kilili's delay request

The House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations and Independent Agencies Committee are poised to throw their support behind Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's request for a one-year delay in the implementation of federalization in the CNMI.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said yesterday one of the ideas considered is the filing of a joint resolution supporting the delay.

The House and Senate committees will meet this morning to develop a plan of action geared at affecting additional delay in the implementation of Public Law 110-229.

Sablan (D-MP) said last week that he's reversing his position and is now seeking a delay in federalization due to the lack of readiness by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to implement P.L. 110-229 by Nov. 28.

Federalization was supposed to take effect on June 1 but this was pushed back by 180 days to Nov. 28. Any further delay needs amendment to the federal law.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz, also a member of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee, echoed Sablan's reason for supporting a delay in federalization.

"DHS has also not been open as to the status of their preparation for federalization," he said.

The Fitial administration, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands have been pushing for further delay in federalization because of its economic and social impact on the CNMI. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

High court explains rulling in Namauleg case

On Sept. 8, 2009, the Commonwealth Supreme Court upheld the Superior Court's decision to exclude the victim's video deposition in the attempted murder case of *Commonwealth v. Namauleg*.

Approximately one year ago, the victim returned to her home country of China for medical treatment and so she could be close to her family. Before leaving, the government took the victim's video testimony, anticipating that she may not be able to return for trial.

On Sept. 2, 2009, the Commonwealth attempted to enter this video into evidence, and the defendant objected on the grounds that it was hearsay. Hearsay is a statement that is made outside of court, and is offered by a party to prove an aspect of its case. In this case, the deposition was taken outside of trial, and provided the victim's account of the attack.

The Commonwealth attempted to use the video under two different hearsay exceptions, both of which incorporate the constitutional requirement that government establish the victim's unavailability to testify in court before it can consider the evidence.

The first rule, Commonwealth Rule of Evidence 804(a)(4), states that the testimony may be admitted if the person is mentally or physically impaired and cannot be present in court. As evidence, the Commonwealth provided a letter from a neurologist written 17 moths ago outlining the victim's condition. The Supreme Court, relying on established and widely-accepted case law, found that this evidence was too remote, and did not demonstrate whether she was currently impaired in such a way that she could not make the trip back to Saipan.

"The Commonwealth has not provided evidence that the declarant's condition has worsened in the [17] months since the medical report was compiled. She was able travel to China approximately one year ago, and the Commonwealth has not shown that she would be unable to travel back to Saipan today. As such, the Commonwealth has not met its burden of establishing unavailability due to physical impairment under Commonwealth Rule of Evidence 804(a)(4)."

The second exception that the Commonwealth attempted to incorporate was Commonwealth Rule of Evidence 804(a)(5). This rule states that the out-of-court testimony may be admitted into evidence if the government has made a reasonable attempt to obtain the victim's attendance, but has been unsuccessful. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the government must make a "good-faith effort" to secure the witness's presence for this exception to apply. The Commonwealth Supreme Court found that the government merely assumed the victim would not be able come, and therefore it did not make a good-faith effort to bring her to Saipan as required by law. Accordingly, the Supreme Court found that the Commonwealth did not meet its burden of demonstrating the victim's unavailability.

The Court stated, "[t]here are few subjects, perhaps, upon which this Court and other courts have been more nearly unanimous than in their expressions of belief that the right of confrontation and cross-examination is an essential and fundamental requirement for the kind of fair trial which is this country's constitutional goal. …For this reason, there is a stringent requirement to establish actual unavailability before depositions are admitted in lieu of live testimony."

Because the government failed to establish actual unavailability, the out-of-court testimony was inadmissible. ***(PR)***

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DOC-151

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO RETROFIT EXISTING T-12 LIGHTING AND MAGNETIC BALLASTS WITH ENERGY STAR RATED T-8 FLOURESCENT LIGHTING AND NEW APPROPRIATE MATCHING ELECTRONIC BALLAST A PROJECT UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. AADAM LORTZ, ARRA PROJECT MANAGER VIA E-MAIL TO cnmiarra@gmail.com OR FAX TO +1 (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MICHAEL ADA**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for the Procurement and Installation of a Non-Directional (Rotating) Beacon at the Tinian International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new non-directional (rotating) beacon at the Tinian International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and 1-year preventive maintenance services. Beacon specifications are as follows with all new components:

- No less than sixty feet (60') high;
- Must withstand at least 190 MPH winds;
- Have a 1.5 gust factor;
- Include a climbing device and basket tower;
- Include a beacon light with 120 VAC, lens, pulse start, obstruction lights, lightning rod; and
- Installation of electrical including new wiring, splicing and breaker.

All requirements under FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-12E, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment.

Furthermore, included in the work is the removal and complete disposal of the existing tower. Disposal site is the responsibility of the contractors but it must be located outside CPA's property.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A walk-through inspection will be conducted on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport on the date and time mentioned above.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009**.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 9, 2009

Four gubernatorial bets to face off on Fund problems

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The four gubernatorial candidates in this year's general election will face each other again in another forum, this time focusing on the NMI Retirement Fund and retirees' concerns.

In a special meeting of the Commonwealth Retirees Association Tuesday night, association chair William R. Barrineau disclosed that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Heinz Hosfchneider, Juan T. Guerrero, and Ramon Deleon Guerrero have confirmed their attendance at a special forum on the night of Sept. 29 at the Multi-Purpose Center. The forum will start at 6pm.

The occasion will also highlight the election of the association's eight-member board of directors.

The four candidates first faced off in July at a forum conducted by the CNMI Youth Congress.

"We want all four gubernatorial candidates to speak to retirees and we're really hoping they will come to this important event because people want to know [of] their plans for the Retirement Fund and how they will take care of retired people," Barrineau said.

The association is also encouraging all retirees to participate in the forum. Each one will be given the opportunity to write two questions for the candidates. These questions, according association member Donna Cruz, will be placed on a pot and each candidate will pick the questions themselves.

Barrineau emphasized that it is the association's purpose to provide retirees, particularly those under the defined benefit plan, information about the state of the Fund, current laws affecting the agency, and the future that awaits Commonwealth retirees.

It has been projected that, unless the Fund's current financial condition improves, it will be broke in five years. Among the many factors that have had a severe impact on the Fund's financial standing were the recent market contraction and the continued drawdowns from the Fund's investment portfolio to subsidize operations and pensions.

According to association member Juan I. Tenorio, there have been several instances when candidates would state that the Fund will be broke in five years "…but to resolve the Fund from becoming broke, that's something we haven't heard [of]."

At present, Barrineau said, the association is not endorsing any candidate for governor. However, after the scheduled forum, the members can decide if they want to endorse one.

"At this time we don't have any particular candidate to endorse, but the possibility remains that we could—as an association—endorse a candidate for governor [after hearing of their plans]," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Juan M. Sablan, for his part, said the candidates' forum should not be interpreted as a political meeting but an important event for all Commonwealth retirees.

"We have about 3,000 retires and their families affected by this problem. We want to know their intentions because we are all banking on our retirement program," Sablan said, adding that the Fund must explore all government's potential revenue sources to fulfill its obligation to the retirees.

As for the court judgment that required the central government to pay the Fund over $231 million in employer contributions, Barrineau is still hopeful that negotiations between the Fitial administration and the Fund will yield positive results.

Others present at the special meeting were Oscar Camacho, Sapuro J. Rayphand, Joe Palacios, Agnes McPhetres and the association's adviser, David Sablan.

Covenant Party
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Message of Gratitude and Appreciation

Dear friends, families and supporters:

We wish to express our sincerest and profound appreciation for the generosity and invaluable support you have extended to us in making our Dinner Fundraiser held on August 29, 2009 at the Seaman's Restaurant a success!

We want to take a moment to extend our special thanks to our Precinct Club and Committee-to-Elect officers and members for demonstrating a fine program. To our food and drinks donors as well as our Endorsement Speakers, thank you so much for your kindness. We would be remised if we did not say thanks to those individuals who worked hard in selling our tickets.

You all have really stepped up our fundraiser and we wanted to tell each and every one of you – Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Words cannot express how grateful we are for your thoughts and for coming to our gathering including those who bought tickets but were not able to join us at this occasion.

This event is more than just a mere fundraiser, the event also became a social experience especially the messages that were delivered in an encouraging and positive way. But finally, it became an occasion for forging our plans especially for our Precinct IV community.

Again, thank you very much and together we'll go beyond this event so that we can work towards building a better and stronger commonwealth for a brighter future for our island nation and our people.

Un Dankolu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank You!

Your Advocates in Congress.

#1 ☑ THOMAS J. CAMACHO & SYLVESTRE I. IGUEL ☑ #4
Candidates for House of Representatives 2009 – Precinct IV

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09 - 033

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW PACKAGE TYPE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS AT KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive seated bids for the purchase and installation of new package type air conditioning units for Kagman Elementary School Cafeteria.

The Scope of Work and specifications are available at the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd floor of Retirement Fund Building Capitol Hill Saipan.

A Mandatory On Site Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM September 17, 2009. Bids submitted by bidders who did not attend this meeting will be rejected,

Question should be in writing and addressed to David F. Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715, or by c-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp not later than September 21, 2009.

Bids shall be placed in a seated enveloped marked "PSS 09 -033" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than September 25, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

'75 pct. of PSS teachers are degree-holders'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System disclosed that more than half of its teaching staff are degree holders and majority are classified highly qualified personnel.

In her report outlined in the PSS newsletter *Students First,* Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said a total of 386 public school teachers have already obtained their degrees, translating to 75 percent of the entire teaching population of PSS.

Data released by the system also showed 124 classroom teachers, or 24 percent, who have master's degrees. Six teachers have doctorate degrees, comprising 1 percent of the entire teaching population.

PSS requires all classroom teachers to have at least a bachelor's degree in the subject area they are assigned to teach.

For teachers to be deemed highly qualified, they must possess a degree, have valid certifications, and must have passed the Praxis tests.

At present, 69 percent of PSS teachers as considered highly qualified. The remaining non-HQTs are in the process of getting all the requirements and waiting for the results of the Praxis exams.

Student test scores on the SAT-10 have almost doubled since PSS began requiring its teachers to pass the Praxis tests four years ago.

Highly qualified teachers receive up to a maximum of $47,000 in annual pay, provided they have a master's degree, certifications, and other credentials. A classroom teacher who has yet to take or pass both Praxis tests receives a starting salary of $28,000.

Sablan disclosed that this school year, PSS will revive the teacher academy program as a means to build local capacity for the PSS teacher pool.

The program, established in the early 1990s, aimed to attract junior and senior high school students into taking up career as educators.

Over a hundred teaching positions will also be restored beginning this school year as a result of the stimulus funds from the federal government. The funding provides PSS with over $32 million in assistance for renovation, restoration of teaching positions, improvement for career and vocational and technical programs in public schools.

LABOR DAY TOURNAMENT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gubernatorial candidates Juan T. Guerrero and Heinz Hofschneider and incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial have their picture taken during the CNMI Labor Day softball tournament in San Diego, California, this past weekend. The three were in the U.S. mainland to campaign among absentee voters.

Project aims to revegetate Laolao badlands

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources and its Division of Agriculture (CNMI Forestry) and Fish and Wildlife, along with the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office and local NGOs Beautify CNMI, MINA and Friends of the Marianas, have teamed up to revegetate a segment of the Laolao badlands.

Called the "The Laolao Watershed Project," it aims to reforest 27 acres in the Laolao area, categorized by the Laolao Watershed Project committee as "badlands."

Badlands are open areas, and threaten the marine ecosystem at Laolao bay with increased runoff and sedimentation.

CNMI Forester and Division of Agriculture Acting Director Vic Deleon Guerrero said, "This is important in terms of erosion prevention and beautifying our island."

In the most recent planting, the team planted 100 Haigue (*Cocos nucifera*), five Chopak (*Mamea odorata*), five Joga (*Elaeocarpus joga*), 15 Puteng (*Barrangtonia asiatica*), five Banalo (*Thespesia pulpunea*), and five Hoda (*Ficus tinctoria*).

For more information on this project, or to volunteer in the next planting session, contact Deleon Guerrero at 256-3301. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 10, 1999

Reyes: Probe residents
He said that if he had the opportunity, he would personally ask Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) to widen the probe to include locals who may be on the OIA's payroll with the sole function to criticize the Commonwealth. "I would like...to recommend that the investigation be expanded to include...other people who are involved in checking out evidence against the CNMI, maybe some local residents also who are actively engaging in a smear campaign," said Reyes. The senator made the comment on the eve of his departure for Washington D.C. to attend the two scheduled oversight hearings called by the same House committee as well as its Senate counterpart. While island leaders, led by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, are expected to meet with key members of Congress and their staff, Reyes said that he would try to discuss CNMI's concerns on the investigation being conducted by Young's panel.

Manglona's aide pleads guilty
An aide of Sen. Herman Manglona has admitted that he tried to influence and intimidate a juror into voting against the indictment of his boss who is being investigated for allegedly taking bribe money from a local businessman. Court documents showed that James King Manglona, also known as Jose Hofschneider, pleaded guilty to charges of "endeavoring to corruptly influence a juror" during a sealed hearing on Sept. 3. District Court Judge Alex Munson unsealed the case yesterday. By entering into a plea agreement with the government, King Manglona waived indictment by a grand jury. King Manglona, who faces a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment, is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 12. According to plea agreement, US Assistant Atty. Kevin Seely has recommended that King Manglona be given the minimum term of incarceration under the statute and sentencing guidelines.

Sept.10, 2001

Seven suicide cases in two weeks reported
The Commonwealth Health Center recorded seven suicide incidents in the last two weeks, two of them reportedly revived by hospital personnel. Sources privy to the cases disclosed that the victims claimed their lives for reasons ranging from severe depression to family-related problems. Reports reaching the *Saipan Tribune* indicated that two of the seven cases of suicide, which transpired in the last 14 days, involved students of a public high school.

House passes 2002 budget
With a scant 12 days before the end of the fiscal year, the House of Representatives finally passed on Friday the $233.84 million Fiscal Year 2002 budget that substantially retained the original proposal of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Slight variations were noted between the allocations outlined in the Governor's proposed budget and the money measure that passed the House but, as expected, the Public School System got the biggest slice of the pie-19 percent, or $45 million-which is $2 million more than the original proposal for the PSS. Although Public Health took the next biggest slice at $39.92 million, this was a bit lower than the original proposal of $40.6 million, while Public Safety came in third, with a $1.78-million increase in its original proposal for $15.3 million.

Sept. 10 2002

Tips pour on Saburo's death
The Department of Public Safety's Crime Stopper's hotline has been receiving numerous calls providing information about the incident surrounding the death of AIDS educator Moses Saburo. This, even as the department expects the case to be classified today whether or not it involved foul play. Lt. Pete Muña, the police department's spokesperson, however, refused to reveal the details of the calls, saying that investigators are still in the process of verifying the tips provided. Although initial police reports on the injuries sustained by Saburo possibly indicate foul play, Muña said police would not want to jump into conclusions pending the result of an autopsy to be conducted by a forensic expert.

CIP master plan under review
Preparations are now going full steam ahead as the Commonwealth government prepares to sit down in less than a month for the Covenant 702 negotiations with the federal government. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who has been appointed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta to head the CNMI panel, said yesterday that he and a team at the Office of the Governor are now putting together a package of information that would be used as a basis for the CNMI's proposal during negotiations in October.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

September 10, to September 16

DEPARTMENT STORE

Mellenium Comfort Grip Flashlight
$5.49

Rayovac Sportsman Lantern
$12.99

Lantern with Heavy Duty Battery 6V
$7.99

Mellenium 6V Lantern
$6.99

SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-6446 THRU SAT. 8:00A.M.- 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M.- 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET TEL.: 235-6016 MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M.- 9:00P.M.

HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-7596 MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M.- 11:00P.M.

KAGMAN MARKET TEL.: 256-6441 MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M.-10:00P.M.

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GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 217

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Low-wage workers and the everyday symptoms of abuse

Low-wage workers in American cities—busboys, child-care providers, textile workers, dishwashers, stockroom clerks, groundskeepers, security guards and the like—comprise an underclass seen practically everywhere but not much heard from. In many cities, large majorities in such jobs are immigrants, many of whom are undocumented. Their relative voicelessness contributes to a pattern of workplace abuse whose pervasiveness has nearly lost the power to shock. It shouldn't.

A new report by the Center for Urban Economic Development, the National Employment Law Project, and the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment paints a disturbing picture of the treatment to which those workers are subjected. Based on a survey last year of almost 4,400 low-wage employees in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, the report describes workplaces in which violations of basic rights are the norm and where workers' attempts to complain are met with retribution.

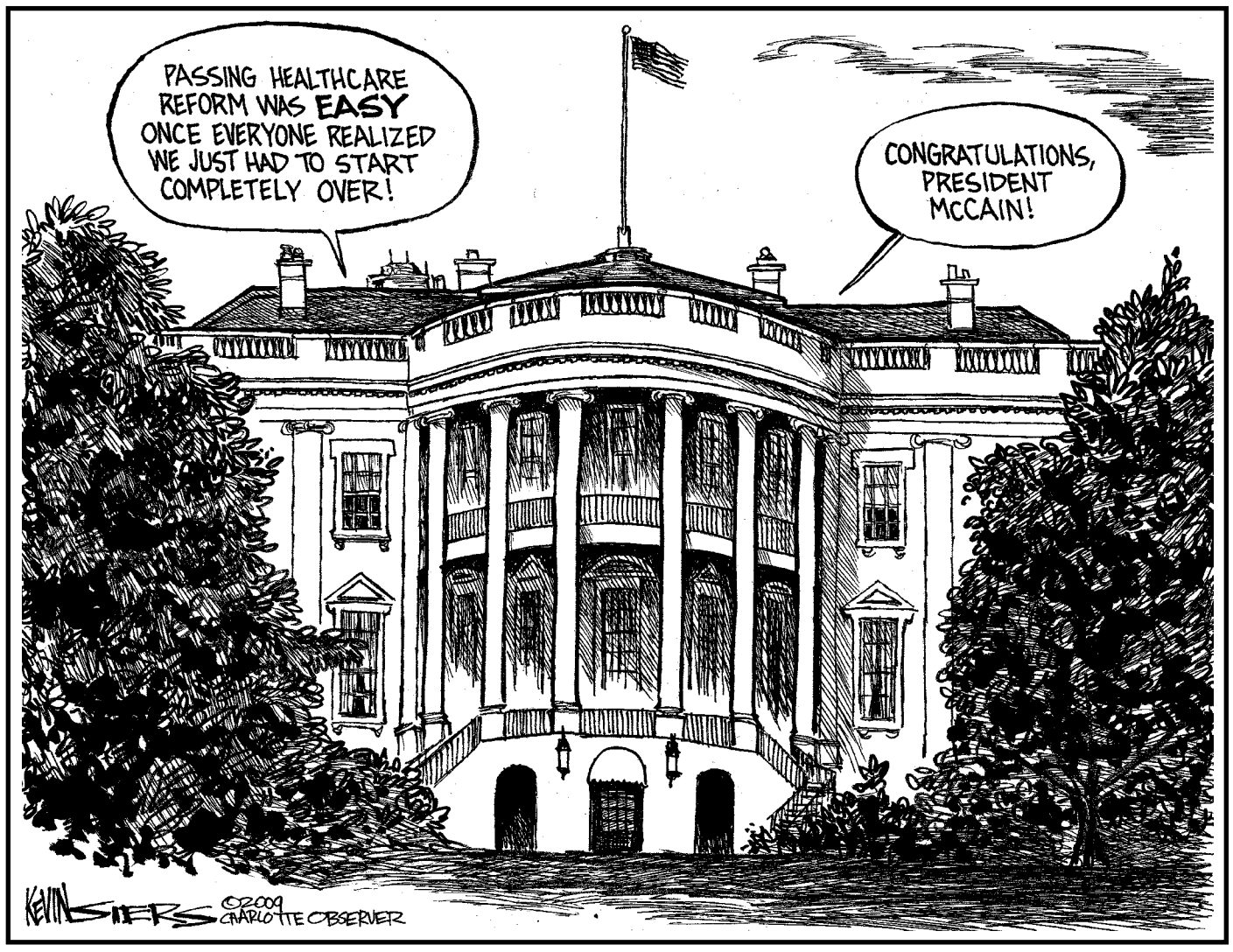
Two-thirds of those surveyed had suffered some form of wage violation. Some had been paid significantly less than the prevailing minimum wage; many had worked overtime without being paid at the required overtime rate. Others were simply not paid at all for hours worked outside of their regular shifts. Those who were seriously hurt on the job often were given no recourse: Just 8 percent who experienced an injury filed a workers' compensation claim, and workers' compensation insurance paid medical costs for only 6 percent of the injured employees.

The staggering gap between what is promised by law and what is delivered in fact is a national shame visited upon society's most vulnerable and least educated. Women, immigrants and people of color suffered disproportionately from violations; undocumented Hispanic women reported the most frequent cases of workplace abuse. Employees unlucky enough to work in the garment industry or in a private home were subjected to more frequent violations than those who worked construction.

Almost 70 percent of the so-called front-line workers surveyed in the study were foreign born, and more than half of those were undocumented immigrants. Their status invites exploitation from unprincipled employers, who gain an unfair advantage over competitors by stiffing their own workforce.

The solutions for such injustice include updated legal standards and more vigorous government monitoring of workplaces. But until undocumented employees are granted equal status through wide-ranging reform in the nation's broken immigration laws, equal protection under the law will remain a pipe dream for millions of workers.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post


PASSING HEALTHCARE REFORM WAS EASY ONCE EVERYONE REALIZED WE JUST HAD TO START COMPLETELY OVER!
CONGRATULATIONS, PRESIDENT MCCAIN!
KEVIN SIERS ©2009 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Shock therapy

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

A couple of weeks ago the family decided to have a marshmallow roast so I went into the jungle on a Saturday night to cut some sticks and brought along my two youngest children. One held the sticks while the other child held the flashlight so I could see what I was doing. While tearing unneeded twigs off the sticks I held the knife the wrong way and my hand slipped and I sliced my hand.

After cleaning the wound, I could see the cut wasn't too serious, but large enough to possibly need some stitches. Since the clinics were closed for the weekend, I decided to drive to the Emergency Room at the hospital to check it out. I waited for over two hours before seeing the doctor and getting four stitches. My total time seeing the doctor and nurses was less than 45 minutes, but when I checked out I was told it would cost $485.

"Wow, that's a lot," I said out loud. Admittedly, I'd become accustomed to the lower-than-USA-hospital rates on Saipan. Over the years, when rare visits were made to ER for family or myself, the bill was usually $100 to $200. A week later, I called a medical clinic and was told that they had just taken care of a serious machete wound that cut to the bone and took two hours to stitch up, and it cost about half of what ER charged. With many people struggling financially, and the bill hovering around $500 for a minor accident, I wondered how many people could afford to visit ER if an incident wasn't life threatening.

Medical expenses have risen astronomically over the years, and there is no doubt that our "health" care system is sick, but what makes it even more difficult is the inexorably high rates being charged. When I asked the lady calculating the payment some questions, I could tell she was jaded from similar questions being asked by surprised patients. The rates were raised last year to help stop the bleeding expenses, but that blood is now being extracted from unsuspecting patients. If someone wasn't in shock from a physical trauma, they're sure to go into shock when they're given the full bill.

As bad as it is on Saipan, the U.S. health care system is a very sick business. According to data offered by the National Coalition on Health Care, the system is riddled with inefficiencies, excessive administrative expenses, inflated prices, poor management and inappropriate care, waste and fraud. Now we know that these issues have always plagued our sole hospital, but we just didn't expect to pay so much for them. That's now changed.

When you also include ambulance-chasing lawyers who encourage accident victims to get their share of the health insurance jackpot, it's no wonder that insurance rates have soared and so many people can't afford insurance. The rising costs of insurance correlate with significant drops in health insurance coverage, and national surveys show that the primary reason individuals are uninsured is because of high and escalating costs of health insurance coverage.

Health insurance and medical costs are the cause of rising debt for individuals and families. A recent study in the *American Journal of Medicine* stated that in 1981 only 8 percent of families filed for bankruptcy due to medical expenses. That number jumped to 46.2 percent by 2001 and a staggering 62.1 percent in 2007, even though 78 percent had health insurance. Most of the medical debtors had middle-class jobs, were well educated, and owned homes. The conclusion of the AJM is "illness and medical bills contribute to a large and increasing share of U.S. bankruptcies."

Individuals who become ill or injured are hit with a double whammy: they experience a loss of income and are hit with high and mounting medical bills. Many Americans are feeling the squeeze from the economy and increasing debt, which has created greater stress and ultimately leads to poorer health. A poll by the American Psychological Association states that eight out of 10 people cite the economy as a significant cause of stress. Debt, unemployment, and stress can send your health plummeting alongside your credit score.

If you're a business owner, it gets even worse. Health insurance costs are the fastest growing expense for employers. The average employer-sponsored premium for a family of four costs about $13,000 per year, and the employee pays about 30 percent of the cost. Employer heath insurance costs actually overtook profits in 2008. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that by the year 2018, job-based health insurance could increase to nearly $25,000 per year, and small businesses will lose $52.1 billion in profits and pay nearly $2.4 trillion dollars if our dysfunctional sick care system is not healed.

Will the President's socialized medicine and health care system be the answer? Well, ask yourself: Has the government ever saved money and run anything efficiently? However, it's obvious that the system does need some critical care and will hemorrhage if pressure isn't applied soon to fix it.

Let me end with four take-away things I learned from my $485 lesson and missed marshmallow roast. First, be more careful how you hold a knife. Second, if it's not life threatening, don't rush to ER (next time I'll tape my hand up and wait until Monday to go to a medical clinic). Third, if you have to go to ER, ask how much each little thing they plan to do to you will cost. You're paying for it, so you deserve to know and the doctors and nurses should be able to tell you. Last, bring warm clothing, a book, magazine, or friend you can talk to because you're going to wait for a long time if it's not a serious injury (I was almost able to finish watching *Pirates of the Caribbean* in the waiting area).

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Justice denied

On Sept. 4, 2009, I received a copy of Criminal Case No. 09-0128a, an order of dismissal from the CNMI Superior Court. I got this copy from one of the defendant's local attorney. Because of his professionalism in dealing with the law and phenomenal public reputation, he had the courtesy to inform me that this case was dismissed and that he was not informed. I was also surprised why the Attorney General's Office moved to drop the case. This case was about the two Correction officers who were arrested and charged with assault and battery and misconduct in public office.

The question is, why did the Attorney General's Office failed to inform the victim or his family about the dismissal order? The motion to dismiss was filed prior to Sept. 2, 2009, the date when the order was signed by the Superior Court presiding judge. The Attorney General's Office could have informed both parties that they intended to file a motion to drop the case. Where is the integrity and justice in this public office? What is the most reasonable justification in dropping the case? Are you saying to the public that you intend to return the two officers back to the correctional facility? It will be a nightmare to the people who are kept there. It will be negligent of the government if the officers commit another act of brutality. The two officers should at least be punished as deterrence and an example so that other officers will not commit the same crime.

Sometimes when a judge or prosecuting attorney makes a decision that is not right, it causes civil disobedience. We need to get answers to the victim's family and the public; it cannot just end this way. The victim has the right to be informed; after all, he is the complainant. If the defendant is going to be administratively punished, the Attorney General's Office should have at least given the victim and the other parties involved courtesy notice about their intentions. In this case, the victim and his family were emotionally injured. They were only seeking to enter and exit the system in a fair and just manner, but justice was denied.

The Attorney General's Office has a problem, and I want them to know that we cannot play these games when it comes to people's lives. The criminal justice system shows that selective preference in terms of prosecution is alive and well. Who are we trying to impress? The governor? The Attorney General's Office should be the eyes and ears in protecting the people of the Commonwealth. Dropping the case was wrong and it's political suicide. The Attorney General's Office made the wrong move. It's an election year and the public is entitled to an honest government that is free from corruption.

The newly appointed Attorney General was confirmed by the Senate last month and he swore that he will uphold the laws of the Commonwealth. He may have good intentions but he cannot function and make a fair judgment in his official capacity if political influence is involved. The Commonwealth will never learn and develop if the people don't change the system. Justice will never be serve if the status quo remains. To make a change and clean up the criminal justice system, we need the people's support and our legislative leaders to cooperate for the betterment of the Commonwealth.

This is the very reason why we need people to decide whether they want an elected or appointed attorney general. Because corruption does exist, I am for an elected attorney general, because I will participate in the hiring and firing process. If the people choose an elected attorney general he/she must at least serve two years, and if we don't like his work ethics, the people will vote to fire him and we make sure that he brings his chair with him. We are not going to wait for another four years to change him. People are going to suffer the consequences of an appointed attorney general, especially if he is a puppet that only serves at the pleasure of the governor.

Joaquin Ulloa Palacios
San Antonio, Saipan

A fond farewell to Tinian

Terri and I wanted to openly thank the people of Tinian for their kindness and the many wonderful blessings we have received because of living on your beautiful island. Leaving is very bittersweet for us: we did not want to leave and expected to live on Tinian for many years to come. The fact that we have been forced to make the decision to leave Tinian has been very difficult for us. On the other hand, the joy we experienced living and working on Tinian and the great love we have for the people of Tinian will be cherished the rest of our lives.

It is important for us both that the people of Tinian know how grateful we are to them for accepting us into their community and their lives. Your love and kindness toward us has had a profound effect upon both of us—you have changed our lives for the better. We only hope and pray that Terri and I have contributed in some small way to the community in which we lived for two years. We leave our prayers and blessings with you as we leave.

We will be moving to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the southwest corner of South Dakota. This area is just south of Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills. Terri will be working in the hospital that serves the Native Americans living in that area. I will continue to write and intend to start a new blog, similar to the tiniantimes.net blog that became so popular here in the CNMI.

We hope that someday circumstances will change, that will permit us to return to this beloved island and to the people we have come to love and cherish. Life is always unpredictable—Terri has often taught our children to "live on the balls of your feet" or, in other words, be ready for anything! We have always chosen to see change as a good thing and as a positive means of growth. So, although we have shed many tears in making the decision to leave Tinian, we know that we are all in God's hands, and if we do well, all things—no matter how difficult—will be for our good.

So one last time: thank you CNMI, and thank you Tinian!

Kevan and Terri Clawson
kclawson@walkingthelinebooks.com
tclawson@terriclawson.com

Thank you

The Zoning Board at its regular meeting on Sept. 9, 2009, rejected by a vote of three to one, the request to rezone the Tanapag Beach area from residential to commercial, in order to allow the operation of a restaurant at the beach of this tranquil fishing community. This Waft by the Sea/Mugen was constructed without first securing all the necessary permits from government agencies, and was denied the permit to operate in this area as a non-confirming development. Without first consulting the villagers of Tanapag, the proponents of this restaurant sought to change the zoning designation of Tanapag Beach by requesting for a variance from the Zoning Board. This would have greatly altered the landscape and tranquility that the villagers have long enjoyed about their beach. The overwhelming majority of the villagers opposes this rezoning effort and wants nothing more than to preserve the beauty of this part of their village.

The variance would have resulted in a significant increase in traffic on the part of customers, delivery trucks, and other service vehicles in the immediate vicinity of Tanapag's beach front/park, endangering the lives of all who use the recreational area and seriously disrupting the village's normal ambiance of peace and quiet.

On behalf of all the people of Tanapag we would like to thank the board members and express our gratitude and appreciation to board chair Henry Hofschneider and board members Elizabeth Rechebai and Joe Limes for their courage and respect of the wishes of the Tanapag villagers in voting to retain the residential nature of that part of the village.

Of the remaining board members, David Igitol recused himself; board member Isidoro Cabrera voted in favor, and board member Herminia Fusco was off-island. We also appreciate the time and effort many community members spent in filling out the zoning questionnaire and signing the petition to limit development in our quiet residential village.

Mike Evangelista
Joseph K. Ruak
Ruth L. Tighe
Bud White
Celina Kani
Ignacia L. Evangelista
Edwin P. Taitano
Edward Sablan
Kristy Sablan
Marcelina Castro
Rosa T. Castro
Cris Pangelinan
Natasha Kani
Amanda Robinson
Tanapag Village, Saipan

An unsung hero

I was a bit miffed after reading about the tragic apparent drowning of a Japanese surfer the other day. The article was an account of the activities that led to this unfortunate event. The problem is that, although this is tragic enough, there was another near-drowning that same day. However, the only mention of this was a single sentence at the end of that article.

I was with a group of friends when Lino Olapai asked if I could see what he thought he was watching. I went to my truck and got my binoculars and gave them to Lino. He said to me to look out past the reef to see if the kayak paddler was in trouble. I observed for about two minutes and saw the paddler trying to keep his kayak upright. After the third time I saw him go under and did not pop up right away, Lino immediately called DPS to alert them of the kayaker in trouble.

Before DPS could get there, two surfers immediately ran down the beach and dove into the surf and headed for the kayaker who was seemingly in great distress. One of the surfboard rescuers was Rob Jordan. Rob was on a standup paddle-type board and risked heavy surf and 10-foot waves to paddle out to the victim, who was frantically waving, trying get some help. Rob got out past the reef and rescued the kayaker and got him on his surf board. Rob decided to stay out past the reef until some other help could go out to get them as the current was too strong to paddle back inside the lagoon. After about 15 minutes, two jet skiers finally made it out to Rob and got the two safely back to shore.

I think the unselfish act that Rob Jordan did that day risking his own life to rescue another human being deserves more than a simple one-line mention in the newspaper. Rob Jordan is surely an unsung hero. Kudos Rob for your caring for the needs of another person and reacting in the manner you did.

Bob Starr Emmett
Susupe, Saipan

How about now?

I read the article "Survey: NMC faculty dissatisfied with NMC board and president" with great interest. As an educator, I am aware of the mild differences that always exist between the faculty and administration. However, the survey results indicate something more serious is going on at NMC. The faculty at the college had very strong feelings of dissatisfaction toward Dr. Fernandez and the board.

However, several points should be highlighted. The survey was done some time ago, "in the Spring semester," according to the article. Since the survey was conducted, some time has passed and two positive developments have taken place. First, accreditation was reaffirmed and the school put on a more solid footing. Second, fall enrollment is up around 25 percent from the previous fall. Both of these developments indicate that the college is moving in the right direction.

Some questions come to the mind of the reader. What is the position of the faculty now? Do they still feel the same as they did in the spring? Have recent successes softened their dissatisfaction toward the administration? If not, why? What are the current grievances of the faculty? What steps have been taken or are planned to remedy the situation? In the interests of fairness, the public, the student body, the faculty, and the administration deserve to know if the statistics cited in the original article represent current feelings, or are only of historical value.

Dr. Barak Cook
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Kastiyu: Another one bites the dust!

Just because something seems like a good idea doesn't make it a good idea. That's the best way I can describe Kastiyu Wildlife Park. At a time when we are cutting back because we don't have funds to continue some programs and services, is it a good idea to start a new project that we know we cannot afford to maintain?

Over a hundred thousand dollars was spent on Kastiyu. Deer and fruit bats were flown in from Rota. Helicopters were used to fly in goats from Aguiguan. Thousands of dollars was spent for feed. Thousands of dollars was spent on purchasing the ready-made igloo. Let's not forget the cost of operations such as gas and staffing. Months later, most of the animals are gone and the park is closed.

We've all joked about Kastiyu and how most of the animals ended becoming chesa. Who doesn't like kelaguen binadu or ayuyu? But is the joke really funny when someone who is seriously sick cannot get medical supplemental assistance because there isn't enough funding? Is it really funny when your kid who's away at college is stressed out because scholarship funding is reduced? Is it really funny when school is out for three months and our kids have nothing to do because we can't afford youth programs? Is it really funny when the joke's on us? Did you really think that charging tourists a couple of dollars for admission fee was going to pay for maintenance?

It was a bad idea because we couldn't afford it then and we can't afford it now.

Juanis B. King Jr.
Marpo Heights II, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

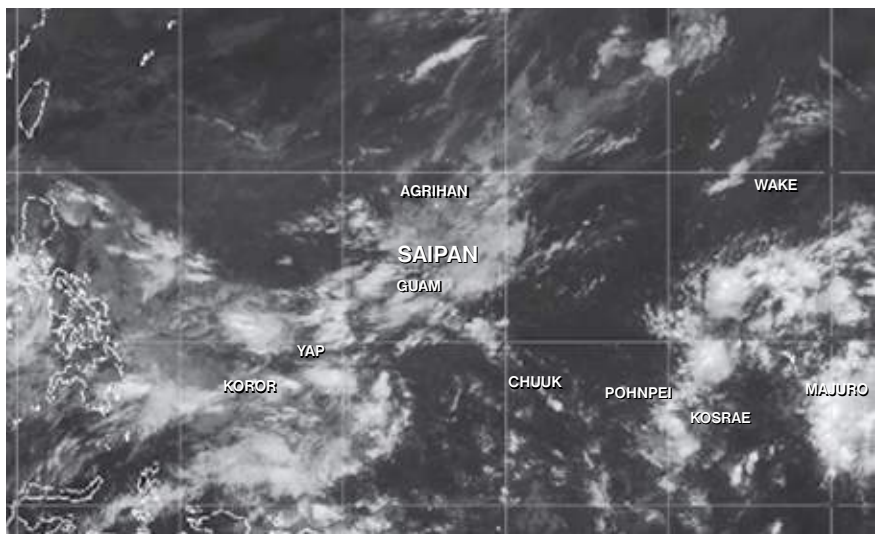
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲89	▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Cloudy	▲88	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61	▼49
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼61
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼52
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲82	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲64	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Rain	▲64	▼60
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼62
Paris	Showers	▲71	▼54
Pusan	Cloudy	▲81	▼62
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲80	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼57
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼65
Washington, DC	Rain	▲67	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Northern Mariana Islands in an area from 18N144E to 17N152E to 13N149E back to 18N144E and just south of Guam within 60 miles of a line from 13N143E to 9N149E. A monsoon trough extends from northern Luzon to 17N130E then southeastward through a circulation southeast of Yap at 8N144E then farther southeastward to end near 3N163E. Westerly winds are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Palau and Yap in a large area from 17N130E to 7N144E to 3N144E to 1N138E to 1N130E back to 17N130E. A surface trough extends southward from 15N163E to 5N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are north of Kwajalein in an area from 14N163E to 17N172E to 11N173E to 11N163 back to 14N163E and between Pohnpei and Kosrae within 125 miles of a line from 9N163E to 2N161E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Majuro in an area from 10N170E to 10N180 to 8N180E to 1N170E back to 10N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:11 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:51 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:10 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:33 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:08 PM	10:35 AM
Friday	11:04 PM	11:35 AM
Saturday		12:36 PM
Sunday	12:04 AM	1:36 PM
Monday	1:07 AM	2:33 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Puengin Inetnon on Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held again on Sept. 11, 2009 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. There will be vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will also be there.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman. Interested vendors can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for applications.

Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for more info.

Tinian High PTA meeting

There will be a PTA meeting at the Tinian High School cafeteria on Sept. 15 at 7pm. Agenda will include election of officers. If you have any questions, feel free to call the following officers: Herman Hofschneider, Carla San Nicolas, Lynette Hofschneider, Annie King and Rose Lazaro. For more information, call the THS office at 237-4162/4165. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

Nominations may be submitted in one of five categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities; Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Outstanding Humanities Teacher (both classroom and non-classroom settings); Preservation of CNMI History; and Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

The Lifetime Achievement will go to a nominee who has made significant contributions in the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

The Council must receive nomination forms and accompanying supporting documentation no later than 4:30pm on Oct. 9, 2009. Nomination forms are available at the Council's new office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai or from its website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort job fair in Kagman

The Kagman Komunidat Association would like to announce that Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort will be having a job fair at the Kagman Community Center on Sept. 15, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. There will be many job openings for Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort's Hotel. Please bring your resume and dress appropriately. ***(PR)***

Guerrero/Borja team to speak on Chamorro radio talk show

The Chamorro radio talk show program called, "Marianas Agupa," hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Dr. David Borja, on Magic 100.3 FM on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, between 9am to 11am in the morning. Discussions will be on social, economic, political and cultural issues facing the Commonwealth today. The phone line at the radio station will be open for question during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast on www.magic100radio.com will also be available. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

■ **Sept. 16: *LIVE* – Replays 9/20 and 9/21 @ 7-8 pm**

PSS Headstart Program and Early Childhood Intervention Services: Mandates, & Expected Goals to be Achieved in School Year 2010. Guests: Keiko A. Yamagata, director, PSS Headstart Program; Suzanne Lizama, director, PSS Early Childhood Intervention Services.

■ **Sept. 23: *LIVE* – Replays 9/27 and 9/28 @ 7-8 pm**

Beach Road Corridor Revitalization and Adult Business Overlay Zoning Projects. Guests: Henry S. Hofschneider, Saipan Zoning board chairman; Victor Barrett, Saipan Zoning administrator; Joe Limes, Saipan Zoning board member.

■ **Sept. 30: *LIVE* – Replays 10/4 and 10/5 @ 7-8 pm**

Featuring Covenant Party Precinct III candidates' vision and platform. Guests: Felicidad 'Daling' Ogumoro, Edmund S. Villagomez, Jesus Elameto, David R. Maratita, and Henry K. Rabauliman.

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2; *LIVE* Text: 285-META; *LIVE* Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 – 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

■ John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)

■ Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)

■ John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)

■ Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)

■ Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

PAWS looking for homes for puppies

The PAWS organization is seeking new and responsible homes for five puppies—two boys and three girls. The puppies were born on Aug. 4, and will be ready for adoption on Friday, Sept. 10, 2009. The adoptive parents are looking for responsible homes that will have the puppies spayed/neutered/fixed to prevent more unwanted animals on the islands.

If you are interested in adopting one or more of these little pups, contact Mark Hanson at cell phone is 287-8600 and/or office - 233-8600.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PAWS is seeking new and responsible homes for these five puppies—two boys and three girls.

Chewy

Chewy, a name given fondly by her foster parents because of her long hair, is a female boonie that is up for adoption immediately. Chewy is about 12 weeks old, has longer black hair and brown marks above her eyes. She has been vaccinated, de-wormed, and treated for skin diseases. She is now ready to be a member of a playful and responsible home. If you can provide Chewy with a safe and loving environment, and veterinary care, contact Rachel and Adam at 322-2104.

Other Pups

PAWS is boarding numerous friendly, and healthy, puppies at Paradise Island Animal Hopsital. If you are interested in adopting or fostering a loving pup, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS or call Paradise Island Animal Hospital directly at 234-9669. Puppies are available for interested parties to meet in person.

Please help PAWS find homes for these unwanted animals so that PAWS may continue to help more animals. ***(PAWS)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Erlinda C. Naputi, who is celebrating her birthday today! Greetings come from your family and friends at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 1st birthday to our princess, Destynee Aguon! May the Lord continue to pour all His blessings upon you! May you have many more years to come! With so much love from Daddy, Mommy and your big sis Ophing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SWEARING IN

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos administers the oath of office for Deputy Attorney General Joseph Taijeron, Marianas Visitors Authority board member Emma Villagomez, and Commonwealth Development Authority board member Pete Itibus before a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
2ND FLOOR, MORGEN BUILDING, SAIPAN MP, 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
September 10, 2009

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. INTERPACIFIC RESORT SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL	08/19/09 SSm-2009-X-063	BEACH SIGN	SAN ANTONIO	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (08/22/09)
2. SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION	08/26/09 SSm-2009-X-064	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED* (08/24/09)
3. PHASE ONE LLC DBA: PAUPAU TOURS	08/26/09 SSm-2009-X-065	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED* (08/27/09)
4. YTS MICRONESIA	09/04/09 STRLRm-2009-X-067	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS SPN, TINIAN, ROTA	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED* (09/09/09)
5. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR	08/31/09 SSm-2009-X-068	DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE	GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*
6. MC N COMPANY LTD.	09/09/09 SPIm-2009-X-069	DRYDOCK	LOWER BASE ABLE DOCK	PORT & INDUSTRIAL	UNDER REVIEW*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

$4.9M ARRA funds support Guam's justice system

Guam's Bureau of Statistics and Plans has been awarded $4,972,500 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, according to Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho Monday.

Guam will receive the money through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program administered by the Bureau of Justice. The program helps fund a broad range of activities that prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system for both state and local governments. It further supports all components of the criminal justice system, including multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces; crime prevention and domestic violence programs; and courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information-sharing initiatives.

"Our justice system serves people at some of the most difficult times of their lives. These funds will help strengthen those services and ensure justice is served efficiently and effectively," said Camacho. "We commend BSP and all other entities that helped secure this money for Guam. Your hard work and dedication truly benefits the people of Guam."

The BSP in collaboration with Guam's criminal justice entities and various resource agencies, has developed a state narrative that outlines the use of these ARRA funds.

"In light of the military buildup, these funds will help us strengthen our ability to fight crime and protect our citizens," said BSP Director Tony Lamorena. "Along with Governor Camacho, we look forward to presenting these checks to crucial initiatives soon."

According to the narrative, funds will be used to support the first year of the Drug Control, Violent Crime and Criminal Justice Systems Improvement Strategy Program. This strategy makes law enforcement, sexual assault, treatment and rehabilitation, technology improvement, and violent crimes a priority.

Based on these priorities, thousands of dollars will be awarded to six local initiatives today, Sept. 8, 2009 at 11am at the small conference room, Adelup. ***(PR)***

Ada family aids Taiwan typhoon victims

HAGATNA, Guam—Pedro P. Ada has seen first-hand how generosity can help families when their homes and villages have been devastated by a typhoon.

When Typhoon Paka hit Guam in 1997, and Typhoon Pongsona left thousands without power and water in 2002, Ada watched as countries across Asia sent financial and medical aid.

Now that Typhoon Morakot has left hundreds missing and feared dead, 126 confirmed dead and entire villages destroyed in Taiwan, the Ada family wanted to repay the favor.

On Thursday, among family and leaders in the Chinese community in Guam, Pedro P. Ada, chairman of the Ada's Trust & Investment Inc., in Hagatna, donated $5,000 to help Taiwanese typhoon victims in the name of his entire family, including his wife Fe Ada, son Peter "Sonny" Ada, and daughters Theresa John and Patty Ada.

"We've had our share of natural disasters here—typhoons, earthquakes—and the island has always been a recipient of care and aid from other places," Ada said. "I just thought that now that we're in a position to help others encountering a similar situation, it behooves us to give the same kindness back that we've received in the past."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Meilih S. Huang, fundraising chairwoman at the United Chinese Association Guam; Joseph Hsu, UCAG president; Vince Tsai, director general (consul general level) of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam; Pedro P. Ada, chairman of Ada's Trust & Investment Inc.; Theresa John; Peter "Sonny" Ada, president, Ada's Trust and Investment Inc.; John Shen, past president of Chinese Chamber of Commerce Guam; and Fong S. Wu, CCCG vice president.

Among leaders of the Chinese community present during the check presentation were Director General (Consul General Level) Vince Tsai of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam, who accepted the check on behalf of the typhoon victims.

"When the typhoon happened, we received a lot of assistance, sympathy and support from communities, not just Chinese communities, but local communities here in Guam," Tsai said. "We received letters from Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Speaker of the Legislature Judith Won Pat-Borja and some senators even went to the United Chinese Association and donated by themselves. Even former Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez held a fundraiser, as well as former Gov. Paul Calvo."

In all, fundraising efforts from Guam for Typhoon Morakot total nearly $100,000, Tsai said.

"When Guam was hit by two typhoons, we donated money and materials," Tsai said. "Now Guam is doing it for us. We just want to express our gratitude to the people of Guam. We all hope the people of Taiwan and China can have a speedy recovery."

Ada, whose family has given to many other causes throughout the years, wants this donation to inspire other business leaders in Guam to help.

"I give from the heart, and hopefully this will encourage other business people to do the same," Ada said. "I know that every time we have a disaster here, we receive kindness from other places. Now it's our turn."

If you would like to donate, contact Meilih S. Huang of UCAG at 477-9279 or 788-1800, or UCAG president Joseph Hsu at 788-0755. ***(PR)***

NEW CLASS OFFICERS

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's 4th Grade class officers pose for a souvenir photo after being inducted into office and blessed by Fr. Delfin Tumaca. From left, Aliah Santos, Jonelle Toskas, Angelica Lucero, Marnecia Hocog, Gavin Mendiola, Metka Mendiola, and Jovani Santos. (Not in photo is Loreville Clitar and 3rd & 4th Grade adviser and PRTI supervisor Edward Maratita, Jr.).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja 3rd Grade class officers pose for a souvenir photo after being inducted into office and blessed by Fr. Delfin Tumaca. From left, Andrew Santos, James Paul Taisacan, Joshua Puerto, Jeni Costales, Tyra Reese Calvo, Jordan Manglona, Daniel Sasakura II, and Adina Christiana Reyes. Not in photo is 3rd & 4th Grade adviser and PRTI supervisor Edward Maratita Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USCG hosts 3-day oil spill response exercise in Apra

GUAM—The U.S. Coast Guard is hosting a three-day exercise that trains agencies how to respond to an oil spill disaster in the Apra Harbor of Guam.

Held under the auspices of the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program, this exercise began Tuesday, Sept. 8, and will end Friday, Sept. 11, 2009. It involves the U.S. Coast Guard, GovGuam, local emergency response agencies, oil spill response organizations, industry, and the port authority.

The exercise is based on the Mariana Islands Area Contingency Plan, the guiding document for oil spill response efforts in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Day one focused on Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team training. Responders were trained by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Scientific Support Coordinator on the preferred methods for oil cleanup along various sections of the Guam shoreline. Day 2 focused on equipment deployment including the Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System. VOSS serves as a mechanical boom that affixes to a ship to skim oil from the water's surface.

The training will culminate on Day 3 with the establishment of a mock Incident Command Post where all stakeholders will develop a coordinated spill response to a test scenario utilizing the Incident Command System.

"The ability to coordinate with other agencies is crucial to Coast Guard Sector Guam's ability to fulfill its function of administering the NPREP, which was created by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990," said Lt. Marlon Heron, chief, Contingency Planning Department, at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam.

The Coast Guard is primarily known for its search-and-rescue operations but it also performs an equally important role—that of protecting the marine environment. A full-scale NPREP exercise is conducted every three years.

The public may report all marine accidents and pollution incidents to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. ***(USCG)***

$5.6M contract is awarded to enhance Andersen road

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded Reliable Builders Inc. of Tamuning, Guam, a $5.6 million design-build contract on Sept. 2 to realign Arc Light Boulevard on Andersen Air Force Base.

The project will widen several thoroughfares on AAFB, including Arc Light Boulevard and surrounding streets, by adding a median divider, bike lane and sidewalk. It will also install three roundabouts.

"As Andersen's role in the Pacific increases in importance, we must ensure the infrastructure can support the base's growth," said Lt. Col. Richard Mathews, 36th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "This project is an important step in meeting Andersen's current and future needs."

To support the increasing role here, more personnel will need access to the base.

"The safety and welfare of our military community and base patrons are particularly important as joint military presence on Guam increases," said NAVFAC Marianas Commanding Officer, Capt. Peter Lynch. "This project will deliver safer streets, incorporate environmentally-conscious design and construction practices, and enhance the operational capability of AAFB."

The construction will be complete by summer 2010. The exact amount of the contract award is $5,612,000.00, and is one of the first task orders issued against a HubZone design-build (DB) multiple award construction contract. ***(PR)***

Business

Taxpayers face heavy losses on auto bailout

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxpayers face losses on a significant portion of the $81 billion in government aid provided to the auto industry, an oversight panel said in a report to be released Wednesday.

The Congressional Oversight Panel did not provide an estimate of the projected loss in its latest monthly report on the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program. But it said most of the $23 billion initially provided to General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC late last year is unlikely to be repaid.

"I think they drove a very hard bargain," said Elizabeth Warren, the panel's chairwoman and a law professor at Harvard University, referring to the Obama administration's Treasury Department. "But it may not be enough."

The prospect of recovering the government's assistance to GM and Chrysler is heavily dependent on shares of the two companies rising to unprecedented levels, the report said. The government owns 10 percent of Chrysler and 61 percent of GM. The two companies are currently private but are expected to issue stock, in GM's case by next year.

The shares "will have to appreciate sharply" for taxpayers to get their money back, the report said.

For example, GM's market value would have to reach $67.6 billion, the report said, a "highly optimistic" estimate and more than the $57.2 billion GM was worth at the height of its share value in April 2008. And in the case of Chrysler, about $5.4 billion of the $14.3 billion provided to the company is "highly unlikely" to ever be repaid, the panel said.

Treasury Department officials have acknowledged that most of the $23 billion provided by the Bush administration is likely to be lost. But Meg Reilly, a department spokeswoman, said there is a "reasonably high probability of the return of most or all of the government funding" that was provided to assist GM and Chrysler with their restructurings.

Administration officials have previously said they want to maximize taxpayers' return on the investment but want to dispose of the government's ownership interests as soon as practicable.

Grocery aisle sees relief as food prices fall

By EMILY FREDRIX and SARAH SKIDMORE
AP FOOD INDUSTRY WRITERS

Grocery shoppers are finally seeing some reprieve from last year's steep price increases.

Food prices are dropping on some key items as retailers slash prices to better compete and food makers do more promotions and pass along savings from lower ingredient and gasoline costs.

It's welcome relief for American consumers who are looking to save money as they cope with stagnant incomes, job loss and economic uncertainty.

Prices for dairy, meat, fruits, vegetables and bread have all fallen.

A Labor Department price index of food sold to be eaten at home fell for the seventh time in eight months in July. The index, which is part of the Consumer Price Index, fell 0.5 percent in the most recent month and is down 0.9 percent in the past 12 months.

In fact, overall food prices—what's sold in groceries and in restaurants—haven't risen on a monthly basis since November 2008.

Still, that doesn't make up for the surge in food prices from last year, when costs for ingredients like wheat and corn and fuel costs for transportation soared to record highs. Food makers raised their prices and some even shrank package sizes to protect their profits. CPI's food-at-home index finished last year up 6.7 percent, so the less than 1 percent drop so far this year doesn't erase that.

But ingredient costs for major food makers, including Heinz, Kraft and Hormel, are down about 28 percent on average as of Sept. 1, from the same time last year, according to Jonathan Feeney, food analyst for Janney Montgomery Scott.

That means the food industry now has room to give back some of those price hikes—and feed the frugal consumer who is using more coupons, buying more store brands and switching to discounters to stretch a budget.

Fines proposed for going without health insurance

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans would be fined up to $3,800 for failing to buy health insurance under a plan that circulated in Congress on Tuesday as divisions among Democrats undercut President Barack Obama's effort to regain traction on his health care overhaul.

As Obama talked strategy with Democratic leaders at the White House, the one idea that most appeals to his party's liberal base lost ground in Congress. Prospects for a government-run plan to compete with private insurers sank as a leading moderate Democrat said he could no longer support the idea.

The fast-moving developments put Obama in a box. As a candidate, he opposed fines to force individuals to buy health insurance, and he supported setting up a public insurance plan. On Tuesday, fellow Democrats publicly begged to differ on both ideas.

Democratic congressional leaders put on a bold front as they left the White House after their meeting with the president.

"We're re-energized; we're ready to do health care reform," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., insisted the public plan is still politically viable. "I believe that a public option will be essential to our passing a bill in the House of Representatives," she said.

After a month of contentious forums, Americans were seeking specifics from the president in his speech to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday night. So were his fellow Democrats, divided on how best to solve the problem of the nation's nearly 50 million uninsured.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed: consumers cut debt by record $21.6B in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumers slashed their borrowing in July by the largest amount on record as job losses and uncertainty about the economic recovery prompted Americans to rein in their debt. Economists expect consumers will continue to spend less, save more and trim debt to get household finances decimated by the recession into better shape. Such behavior, though, is a recipe for a lethargic revival, because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity. The Federal Reserve reported Tuesday that consumers in July ratcheted back their credit by a larger-than-anticipated $21.6 billion from June, the most on records dating to 1943. Economists had expected credit to drop by $4 billion.

Oil shoots above $71 a barrel on weak dollar

Crude prices settled above $71 a barrel Tuesday as a falling dollar pushed investors to seek out commodities such as oil and gold. Benchmark crude for October delivery gained $3.08 to settle at $71.10 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract had settled at $68.02 on Friday after rising 6 cents. The dollar fell to a low for the year Tuesday against the euro and several other currencies as gold prices surpassed $1,000 an ounce for the first time since February.

Nation

Obama's back-to-school speech inspires some kids

AP

Third graders at Jane Addams Elementary School in Springfield, Ill., watch and listen to President Barack Obama deliver a televised address to students across America, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—On the very first day of the school year, 12-year-old Mileena Rodriguez was reminded by President Barack Obama himself that hard work can take you places. Mileena listened to Obama's plea to study hard and stay in school Tuesday, watching along with several of her classmates at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School and students across the country. For all the hubbub among adults over the back-to-school speech, many youngsters took the president's message to heart.

"He said that we're the future, and he's right," said Mileena, who wants to be a forensic scientist. "That's a president telling you, `I care about you getting your education.' Just imagine what kids like us can do if we actually listen."

Schoolchildren from coast to coast watched on classroom TVs and computer screens. Others did not hear the message at all, either because their parents pulled from them from class or their schools refused to carry the speech over complaints from conservative groups and others that it smacked of political indoctrination.

In his speech, which aired on C-SPAN and the White House Web site, Obama used examples from his own life to urge students to study hard. He told them to stop chasing dreams of being athletes or reality TV stars.

"The truth is, being successful is hard. You won't love every subject you study. You won't click with every teacher. Not every homework assignment will seem completely relevant to your life right this minute. And you won't necessarily succeed at everything the first time you try," Obama said.

Other presidents, including Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, delivered similar speeches to students, but some conservatives accused Obama of trying to promote his policies, and they urged schools and parents to boycott the address. Florida Republican Party chairman Jim Greer initially called the speech an attempt to "spread President Obama's socialist ideology."

Blagojevich: Words on FBI tape out of context

CHICAGO (AP)—Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich said Tuesday that statements he made on secret FBI wiretap tapes were taken out of context by prosecutors and that he might try to call senators and a top White House official as witnesses at his racketeering and fraud trial to back his version of events.

Blagojevich

Blagojevich told The Associated Press in a phone interview that he might even try to subpoena President Barack Obama as a witness at his trial, but the court is unlikely to compel the president to testify.

The former governor, whose trial is scheduled to begin June 3, said he expects to be cleared of charges that he tried to sell or trade Obama's former Senate seat for campaign money or a high-paying job for his wife or himself.

"I will be vindicated because I haven't done anything wrong," Blagojevich said.

He said he sometimes stays awake and worries that justice—as he sees it—won't prevail and he will go to prison.

"I think about it in the wee hours, in the witching hour—I'm only human," Blagojevich said. He described the ordeal he and his family have been going through since his arrest last December as "this nightmare."

Blagojevich said he is not tempted to ask his attorneys seek a plea deal that could cut years of any prison sentence.

"Never," he said, raising his voice.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sotomayor takes her place on high court bench

WASHINGTON (AP)—Justice Sonia Sotomayor has taken her seat at the Supreme Court in front of a packed courtroom that included President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. The ceremony Tuesday was just for show. Sotomayor and the rest of the court will return Wednesday for the argument in a key case about campaign finance law. Sotomayor, 55, last month became the first Hispanic and third woman to be a justice. She took the oath again Tuesday in a ceremony by which the court formally welcomes its newest member. Attorney General Eric Holder presented Sotomayor's ivory-colored commission from Obama. Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office, after which Sotomayor took her seat at the end of the bench to Roberts' left, next to Justice Stephen Breyer. All her colleagues were in attendance.

Boy hidden behind wall remains in state custody

BENTON, Ill. (AP)—A 6-year-old boy whose mother is accused of hiding him in a crawl space for nearly two years whenever visitors arrived will remain in state custody while he gets counseling meant to eventually reunite him with his father. Franklin County Circuit Judge Kyle Vantrease turned away Michael Chekevdia's request to take temporary custody of his son immediately, ruling Tuesday that Richard Chekevdia needs help to gradually process his "traumatic" ordeal. Ricky and his mother, 30-year-old Shannon Wilfong, vanished in November 2007. They were found Friday hiding in a small crawl space in his grandmother's two-story home in southern Illinois.

Authorities: Bone near Garrido home probably human

ANTIOCH, Calif. (AP)—A sheriff's spokesman says a bone fragment pulled from the backyard of a home where kidnapping suspect Phillip Garrido once stayed is probably human. Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department spokesman Jimmy Lee said Tuesday that was the assessment of a forensic expert who performed tests on the fragment recovered last week. Lee says it is not unusual to recover Native American remains in the area. But the department has asked the state crime lab to perform DNA tests to determine the bone's age and who it might have belonged to.

Asia

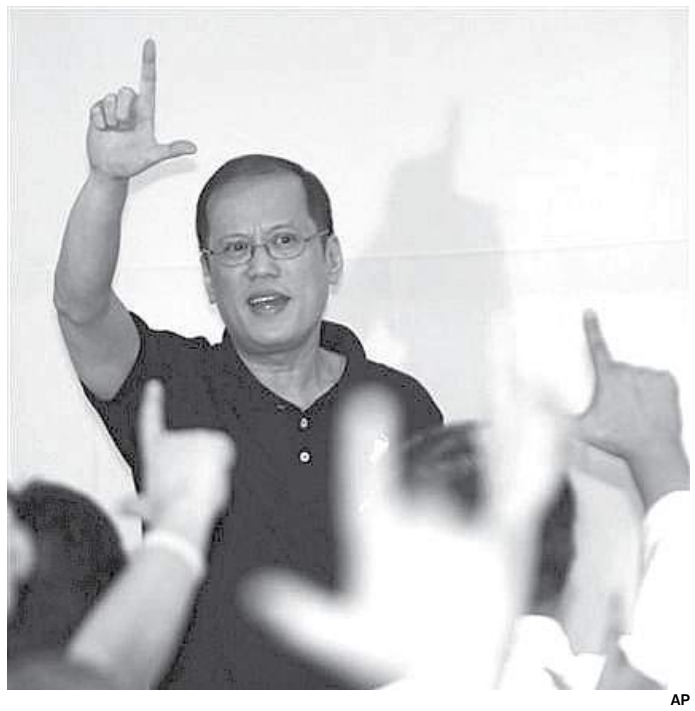
Late Philippine leader's son running for president

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The son of late Philippine leader Corazon Aquino announced Wednesday he will run for president next year to continue the legacy of his mother, who became the country's democracy icon for standing up to dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino announced his campaign in the suburban Club Filipino where his mother took her oath as president after the February 1986 "People Power" revolt against the late Marcos.

"I accept the call of the people," Aquino told supporters. "I accept the responsibility of continuing our fight for the people. I accept the challenge to lead this fight."

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who lost the support of the Aquinos over charges of corruption and election fraud, is scheduled to step down after serving more than nine years in June 2010. She is not allowed to run for re-election.



AP

Philippine Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the only son of late Philippine President Corazon "Cory" Aquino, flashes the "L" sign for Laban, meaning Fight as he joins in the singing of a nationalist song shortly after declaring himself a presidential contender for next year's national elections at a historic Club Filipino at suburban Mandaluyong, east of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009.

Afghan recount ordered because of fraud charges

KABUL(AP)—AU.N.-backed commission found "convincing evidence" of fraud Tuesday in Afghanistan's presidential election and ordered a recount of suspect ballots in at least three provinces, a process that could take months.

At the same time, Afghan officials released new returns that give President Hamid Karzai 54 percent of the vote with nearly all ballots tallied, enough to avoid a run-off unless large numbers of tainted ballots are ultimately thrown out.

The separate announcements from the complaints commission, which is dominated by U.N.-appointed Westerners, and the election commission, which is filled with Karzai appointees, could set the stage for a showdown.

The image of a crooked Afghan president rigging the vote threatens to discredit the entire U.S.-led mission here at a time when NATO casualties are mounting and American, European and Canadian voters are fatigued and disenchanted with the war.

"The perception of fraud will shorten the length of time that one can expect foreign support," said Ronald E. Neumann, a former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan. "People will just get disgusted. They'll say, `Why do I sacrifice my son for a leadership that cannot rally the country fairly?'"

NKorea marks 61st anniversary amid nuke standoff

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea marked the communist country's 61st anniversary Wednesday with patriotic songs and odes to leader Kim Jong Il and his "army first" policy.

The celebration came as the regime faced international pressure to abandon its nuclear weapons program, and a year after Kim's failure to attend a massive military parade for North Korea's milestone 60th anniversary sparked speculation about his health.

U.S. and South Korean officials said Kim was believed to have suffered a stroke in August of last year. The reports triggered fears of a succession crisis in the nuclear-armed nation of 24 million, which he rules with absolute authority.

However, the 67-year-old leader appears to have recuperated and remains in charge, U.S. and South Koreans said.

On Wednesday, North Korean state TV played patriotic songs calling for eternal loyalty to Kim for building a "paradise" on the Korean peninsula, set to footage of citizens lining the streets and gathering at public plazas to celebrate the national holiday. The footage appeared to be taken from past anniversary celebrations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

New York Times: Commandos free *Times* reporter

KABUL (AP)—Commandos freed a *New York Times* reporter Wednesday after he was kidnapped by militants in northern Afghanistan last week, the paper said. An Afghan official said the reporter's translator was killed in the operation. Stephen Farrell disappeared along with his translator in the northern province of Kunduz on Saturday. German troops had fired on hijacked fuel tankers the day before, and many reporters traveled to the region to cover the story. Mohammad Sami Yowar, a spokesman for the Kunduz governor, confirmed the rescue by British Special Forces and said that the translator was killed.

Malaysia court charges 6 Muslims with sedition

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian court charged six Muslims with sedition Wednesday for parading a severed cow head to protest the construction of a Hindu temple in a case that has stoked religious and racial tensions in this multiethnic country. The six also were expected to be charged—along with six others—with illegal assembly later Wednesday. The 12 were among a large group of people who had marched from a mosque in Shah Alam, the capital of Selangor state, to the state chief minister's office on Aug. 28 with the bloodied cow head. The cow is the most sacred animal in Hinduism.

Myanmar pro-democracy party wants offices reopened

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The pro-democracy party of detained Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi called on the ruling junta Tuesday to allow it to reopen its branch offices, which would be crucial for taking part in next year's planned national elections. The junta has not held elections since 1990, when Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won in a landslide but was not allowed by the military to take power. The NLD issued a statement saying the party had sent a letter to junta chairman Senior Gen. Than Shwe on Friday noting that the party is a legally registered organization but that its local offices had been sealed and its activities restricted by the government.

World

UN caught in Gaza dispute over study of Holocaust

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gaza students won't learn about the Holocaust this year.

Angry protests by Palestinians have disrupted tentative plans to introduce information about the Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews into the curriculum in U.N. schools.

The dispute touches on one of the largest psychological barriers dividing Arabs and Jews: Arabs see the Holocaust as an excuse for Israel's creation, and Jews see Arab Holocaust denial as a rejection of Israel's right to exist.

The uproar has left the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which runs 221 of more than 600 primary and secondary schools in Gaza, caught between the territory's Hamas leaders—some of them ardent Holocaust deniers—and outraged Jewish groups.

Some in Hamas accused the U.N. agency of trying to generate sympathy for Israel and conspiring against the Palestinians. In turn, Jewish activists demanded to know why the subject of the genocide wasn't part of the human rights syllabus in the first place.

"Now we are being bashed from all quarters," the agency's chief in Gaza, John Ging, told The Associated Press.

The controversy erupted last week, after an umbrella group for Palestinian refugees in Gaza protested what it said were plans to teach eighth-graders in U.N. schools about the Holocaust.

U.N. officials denied they had such intentions for this school year and insisted they weren't scaling back in response to public pressure.

Regional agency chief Karen Abu Zayd suggested information about the Holocaust could be included in later years, as part of lessons about the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UNWRA's Web site mentions general plans to include the Holocaust in lessons on the "historical context that gave rise to" that declaration.

Roadside bombs kill 4 US soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Four U.S. soldiers were killed by roadside bombs Tuesday, the deadliest day for American forces in Iraq since combat troops pulled back from urban areas more than two months ago. The separate attacks in Baghdad and in northern Iraq showed the dangers still facing U.S. troops as they drastically scale back their presence and prepare for a full withdrawal by the end of 2011.

The monthly U.S. death toll has declined sharply this year, falling into single digits for the first time, with American troops shifting to a mainly support and training role in line with a security pact that took effect on Jan. 1. August saw the lowest monthly toll since the war began in 2003, with seven U.S. deaths.

But attacks have persisted since American troops withdrew from population centers on June 30—as required under the security deal—and Iraqi forces have borne the brunt. Bombings and shootings killed at least 10 Iraqis on Tuesday. The attacks have heightened concerns about Iraqi forces' ability to protect the people and raised fears of resurgent violence ahead of January's parliamentary elections.

One roadside bomb struck a patrol in southern Baghdad, killing one American soldier. A short time later, another bomb targeting a patrol in northern Iraq killed three U.S. soldiers, the military said.

Iran raids raise pressure on opposition leaders

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian security forces Tuesday cracked down on the opposition's campaign to highlight torture and abuse of prisoners in the country's postelection crisis, shutting down offices of pro-reform leaders and arresting five of their aides in a startling series of raids.

The raids hiked up the pressure against the top opposition leaders, Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi, who hardline clerics and commanders of the powerful Revolutionary Guards have said should also be arrested.

The arrests suggested that authorities aim to crush the campaign led by Mousavi and Karroubi to bring to light alleged torture and rapes of protesters who were detained in the heavy crackdown against the opposition that followed the disputed June presidential election.

The abuse allegations have been deeply embarrassing for the Iranian government and the clerical leadership, amid reports that several detainees were tortured to death. Karroubi in particular has been vocal in demanding an official investigation into the allegations.

On Tuesday, security forces descended on Karroubi's personal office and the office of his National Confidence Party, said party spokesman, Esmaeil Gerami Moghaddam.

In the personal office, agents pushed by Karroubi himself and arrested one of his aides, Mohammad Davari, an editor of the party Web site, and at the party office, they arrested two other party members, he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Claim Sarkozy used short people as props hits Web

PARIS (AP)—From elevator shoes to step-up boxes behind podiums, and even his own tippy-toes, Nicolas Sarkozy and his handlers have tried to compensate for his height—or lack thereof. Now, a factory worker's claim that she was chosen to stand near the French president during a photo shoot because she is short is making waves on the Internet—and rankling Sarkozy's office. The brouhaha was sparked during a visit to an auto parts plant in Normandy last week in which Sarkozy laid out his support for industry and defended his controversial plan for a "carbon tax" to help the environment.

With new AG, Mexico tries to revamp drug war

MEXICO CITY (AP)—With a new attorney general, Mexican President Felipe Calderon is trying to get even tougher on drug cartels and those who protect them. But critics say he tapped the wrong man for the job: Arturo Chavez was mired in controversy as attorney general of a border state where corruption ran rampant and hundreds of women were raped and murdered with impunity. In nominating Chavez, Calderon clearly sided with Mexico's top cop, Public Safety Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna, in an increasingly bitter rivalry with outgoing Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora. Chavez and Garcia Luna are allies from the same faction of the ruling party.

Sudanese woman convicted of wearing trousers freed

CAIRO (AP)—A woman journalist convicted of public indecency for wearing trousers outdoors was freed Tuesday, despite her own desire to serve a month in prison as protest against Sudan's draconian morality laws. The judge who convicted Lubna Hussein had imposed a $200 fine as her sentence, avoiding the maximum sentence of 40 lashes in an apparent attempt to put an end to a case that had raised international criticism of Sudan. But Hussein refused to pay the fine, which would have meant a month's imprisonment. She told The Associated Press that she was freed Tuesday after the fine was paid without her knowledge by the Journalist Union, which is headed by a member of the ruling party.

Environment

In hot water: World sets ocean temperature record

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

AP
Wave watchers check out the ocean action near Peggy's Cove, N.S. Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009. July was the hottest month for the world's oceans in almost 130 years of record-keeping.

ON THE NET

■ National Climatic Data Center on July 2009: http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/?report=global&year=2009&month=7

■ NOAA's coastal water temperature guide: http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/dsdt/cwtg/all.html

WASHINGTON (AP)— July was the hottest month for the world's oceans in almost 130 years of record-keeping.

The average water temperature worldwide was 62.6 degrees (17 Celsius), according to the National Climatic Data Center, the branch of the U.S. government that keeps world weather records. June was only slightly cooler, while August could set another record, scientists say. The previous record was set in July 1998 during a powerful El Nino in the Pacific. The coolest recorded ocean temperature was 59.3 degrees (15 Celsius) in December 1909.

Meteorologists said there is a combination of forces at work: A natural El Nino weather pattern just getting started on top of worsening manmade global warming, and a dash of random weather variations. Already the resulting ocean heat is harming threatened coral reefs. It also could hasten the melting of Arctic sea ice and help hurricanes strengthen.

The Gulf of Mexico, where warm water fuels hurricanes, has temperatures dancing around 90 degrees (32 Celsius). Most of the water in the Northern Hemisphere has been considerably warmer than normal. The Mediterranean is about three degrees warmer than normal. Higher temperatures rule in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The phenomenon is most noticeable near the Arctic, where water temperatures are as much as 10 degrees (5.5 Celsius) above average. The tongues of warm water could help melt sea ice from below and even cause thawing of ice sheets on Greenland, said Waleed Abdalati, director of the Earth Science and Observation Center at the University of Colorado.

Breaking heat records in water is more ominous as a sign of global warming than breaking temperature marks on land, because water takes longer to heat up and does not cool as easily as land.

"This warm water we're seeing doesn't just disappear next year; it'll be around for a long time," said climate scientist Andrew Weaver of the University of Victoria in British Columbia. It takes five times more energy to warm water than land.

The warmer water "affects weather on the land," Weaver said. "This is another yet really important indicator of the change that's occurring."

Georgia Institute of Technology atmospheric science professor Judith Curry said water is warming in more places than usual, which has not been seen in more than 50 years.

Add to that an unusual weather pattern this summer where the warmest temperatures seem to be just over oceans, while slightly cooler air is concentrated over land, said Deke Arndt, head of climate monitoring at the climate data center.

The pattern is so unusual that he suggested meteorologists may want to study that pattern to see what is behind it.

The effects of that warm water already are being seen in coral reefs, said C. Mark Eakin, coordinator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coral reef watch. Long-term excessive heat bleaches colorful coral reefs white and sometimes kills them.

Bleaching has started to crop up in the Florida Keys, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Typically, bleaching occurs after weeks or months of prolonged high water temperatures. That usually means September or even October in the Caribbean Sea, said Eakin. He found bleaching in Guam on Wednesday. It is too early to know whether the coral will recover or die. Experts are "bracing for another bad year," he said.

The problems caused by the El Nino pattern are likely to get worse, the scientists say.

An El Nino occurs when part of the central Pacific warms up, which in turn changes weather patterns worldwide for many months. El Nino and its cooling flip side, La Nina, happen every few years.

During an El Nino, temperatures on water and land tend to rise in many places, leading to an increase in the overall global average temperature. An El Nino has other effects, too, including dampening Atlantic hurricane formation and increasing rainfall and mudslides in Southern California.

Warm water is a required fuel for hurricanes. What's happening in the oceans "will add extra juice to the hurricanes," Curry said.

Hot news about cool science

Want the cold facts about melting glaciers? How about details on a recent study finding mercury contamination in fish nationwide? Or how you can wander New York on Sept. 11 and help find the city's lost crickets? The answers are in this edition of USGS *Science Picks*.

The cold facts about melting glaciers

Most glaciers in Washington and Alaska are dramatically shrinking in response to a warming climate. During the past 50 years, USGS scientists have measured changes in the mass (length and thickness) of three glaciers: Alaska's Gulkana and Wolverine Glaciers and Washington's South Cascade Glacier. These are the longest such records in North America and among the longest in the world. These three glaciers are known as benchmark glaciers because they are widely spaced, represent different climate regimes, and can be used to understand the thousands of other glaciers in nearby regions. In addition to these three glaciers, more than 99 percent of America's thousands of large glaciers have long documented records that show an overall shrinkage as climate warms. You can watch a video of South Cascade Glacier from 1928–2006 at http://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/glacier/video.html.

Mercury contamination in fish nationwide

A USGS study found mercury contamination in every fish sampled in 291 streams across the country. About a quarter of these fish contained mercury at levels exceeding the criterion for the protection of people who consume average amounts of fish, established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. More than two-thirds of the fish exceeded the EPA level of concern for fish-eating mammals. To learn more about this USGS study, visit http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/mercury/.

Help find the lost crickets of New York City

Remember Chester in *The Cricket in Times Square*? George Selden was inspired to write his classic children's story after hearing chirps in the subway. Crickets and katydids are a vital part of the urban and suburban ecosystems and used to be an abundant force in NYC. Are these organisms still in the NYC area, and if so, where? You can help scientists from the USGS and other organizations find out by joining the first Cricket Crawl on Friday, Sept. 11, between dusk and midnight. All you have to do is step outside and simply record what you hear using your cell phone as a tape recorder. You might even discover species that haven't been seen in years! For more information on how to get involved, check out http://www.discoverlife.org/cricket. There you can read about the different crickets and katydids and even practice listening to their different calls.

Smallest life forms, BIG power

You'd be surprised by the power packed in some of the smallest life forms on Earth. Some are pathogens and can cause human health risks by contaminating drinking water. Others can cause West Nile Virus in bird species or plague in Black-Footed ferrets. Microorganisms can even be even potential sources of alternative energy. Some scientists are studying the possibility for converting microbial biomass to electricity, while other researchers are working to discover if bacteria could be used in a fuel cell to convert waste to electricity. These wee little things are also impacted by climate change. For example, changes in temperature can alter their habitat and result in the spread of diseases or loss of some microbial communities. USGS scientists are involved in a wide range of microbiology research to understand these issues and help mitigate negative scenarios. The new USGS microbiology site is a one-stop shop for studies about microbiology and the environment. Check it out at http://microbiology.usgs.gov/.

ON THE NET

http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/leads.asp?ID=2298

The nitty gritty of Cash for Clunkers

The government-run "Cash for Clunkers" did much more than just stimulate the economy and raise awareness of carbon emissions. It also caused demand for a little known and little used mineral compound called sodium silicate. The program required that buyers of clunkers immediately kill the engine of the ca—a task most efficiently done by running the engine with sodium silicate. When a vehicle runs for a few minutes with this compound in place of engine oil, the engine seizes, and it cannot be reused. The other parts of the vehicles, however, can be recycled. Sodium silicate, the only soluble silica compound, is made by fusing two industrial minerals, high-purity silica sand with soda ash. The USGS has been an authoritative source for U.S. and global nonfuel mineral production data, including silica sand, soda ash, and 80 other mineral commodities, for more than 130 years. For more on sodium silicate or any other minerals, check out http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/.

Climate change may leave early birds without the worm

Climate change may affect critical water resources that support prey for 75 migratory bird species in the Great Basin. A new five-year study by USGS and World Wildlife Fund scientists will examine the effects of climate change on waterbirds in this area. As climate change either freshens wetlands or drier weather makes them saltier, the distribution and availability of waterbird prey species may impact which waterbirds can use the wetlands and when. Scientists will use new genetic tools and climate models to examine past and present distributions of prey species to predict potential changes in their distribution. Results will have implications for evaluating future water needs for urban communities, agricultural irrigation, grazing plans and waterbird conservation. To learn more about USGS conservation genetics research, visit http://fresc.usgs.gov/research/StudyDetail.asp?Study_ID=656 or http://fresc.usgs.gov/conservationgeneticslaboratory/.

Investigating mysterious bat deaths

Bat populations have been declining at an alarming rate in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. Since 2007, hundreds of thousands of hibernating bats in nine states have died from a disease called white-nose syndrome, involving an invasive white fungus. Wildlife specialists are concerned about the devastating threat that white-nose syndrome could pose on bat communities in other regions of the world. A new USGS fact sheet, "Investigating Bat White-Nose Syndrome," highlights USGS progress in addressing issues pertinent to the syndrome. In 2008, USGS scientists and partners isolated and identified *Geomyces destructans,* the fungus associated with the syndrome. New studies have been initiated, including a rapid detection test for *G. destructans* and a method to identify how the fatal fungus is transmitted. Study results will help forecast the spread of white-nose syndrome and determine if and how bats survive exposure to the disease. For more information, visit http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact_sheets/pdfs/2009-3058_investigating_wns.pdf.

Source: U.S. Geological Service

Life & Style

Photographer Annie Leibovitz's loan repayment due

NEW YORK (AP)—Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz risks losing the copyright to her images—and her entire life's work—if she doesn't pay back a $24 million loan due Tuesday.

The lender, Art Capital Group, sued Leibovitz in July claiming she breached an agreement that authorized it to act as the agent in the sale of her photography and real estate.

Leibovitz spokesman Matthew Hiltzik said Tuesday that the photographer was working to "resolve the situation." Art Capital spokesman Montieth Illingworth said Friday that the company has "clear contractual rights and will protect them in any scenario."

"Our preference is for this to be resolved," he added.

The deadline to pay back the loan is 11:59 p.m. Tuesday. It's unclear what will happen if the deadline passes without the loan being repaid.

Neither side would say Tuesday whether they were meeting or if an agreement was possible. Representatives for both Leibovitz and the art lending company had made no public statements by the afternoon.

ACG is a Manhattan-based company that issues short-term loans against fine and decorative arts and real estate.

Last year, the 59-year-old photographer put up as collateral her three historic Greenwich Village townhouses, a sprawling upstate New York property and the copyright to every picture she has ever taken—or will take—to secure the loan with ACG.

The company said she needed the money to deal with a "dire financial condition arising from her mortgage obligations, tax liens and unpaid bills to service providers and other creditors."

ACG consolidated all her loans in September 2008. In its lawsuit, it charged that Leibovitz breached a December 2008 sales agreement with the company granting ACG the right to sell the collateral before the loan came due. The lawsuit claimed she refused to allow real estate experts into her homes to appraise their value and blocked the company from selling her photographs.

AP

In this Oct. 9, 2007 file photo, photographer Annie Leibovitz speaks about her portrait of Queen Elizabeth II at her gallery exhibition, Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005, during a press preview of the exhibit at the Corcoran Museum of Art in Washington.

ACG has estimated the value of the Leibovitz portfolio at $40 million; real estate brokers say her New York properties are worth about $40 million.

Under the sales agreement with Leibovitz, Illingworth said, the company would get 10 percent commission on the sale of Leibovitz's real estate and 15 percent on the sale of her portfolio. Leibovitz would get the remainder after paying off the $24 million loan, interest and other fees, he said. If she defaults, the company would get a net 12 percent commission, after paying approximately 13 percent for costs and fees.

More legal problems for the photographer emerged last week when an Italian photographer accused Leibovitz in a Manhattan federal lawsuit of using his images in a calendar without his permission. The suit seeks unspecified damages. Hiltzik declined to comment.

Leibovitz's artsy, provocative portraits of celebrities regularly grace the covers of Vanity Fair and Vogue.

Over the years, her lens has captured such famous faces as John Lennon, Queen Elizabeth II and Bruce Springsteen. She gave the world its first glimpse of baby Suri, newborn daughter of Hollywood's superstar couple Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, on the cover of Vanity Fair, which she joined in 1983.

Columnist Army Archerd dies at 87

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Army Archerd, whose breezy column for the entertainment trade publication Daily Variety kept tabs on various Hollywood doings for more than a half-century, has died. He was 87.

Archerd's spokeswoman said he died Tuesday at UCLA Medical Center of mesothelioma, a cancer of the lungs strongly tied to asbestos exposure.

Over the years, Archerd won praise from the Hollywood establishment for always checking the accuracy of his news tips before printing them. He had an extensive phone directory of much-guarded private numbers that he would use to call movie stars and studio bosses directly to ferret out which rumors were true and which were not.

His biggest scoop came in 1985 when he was first to report that veteran leading man Rock Hudson had AIDS. It was the first time a major Hollywood star was disclosed to be an AIDS victim, and it helped break down some of the secrecy surrounding the disease.

Archerd—born Armand Archerd in New York in 1922—also broke the story that Julia Roberts had jilted fiance Keifer Sutherland in 1991 and that longtime bachelor Warren Beatty had married Annette Bening in 1992. His source for the Beatty-Bening story was Beatty himself.

For more than 50 years he also served as the greeter-interviewer at the Academy Awards. Actor nominees and other celebrities were conducted to a platform alongside the red carpet for a brief chat with Archerd that was heard by the thousands of fans gathered outside the theater.

"I try to give the nominees a little moment in the sun, maybe their last," he explained in 2002.

Archerd's columns were generally mild-mannered, although he could lash out at what he considered wrongdoing. After he excoriated Michael Jackson for including anti-Semitic remarks in his "HIStory" album, the entertainer apologized and took them out.

Archerd's first brush with the studios came in the early 1940s when he worked in the Paramount mailroom while a student at the University of California, Los Angeles.

After wartime service in the Navy, he returned to Los Angeles and began his news career working with this reporter on a daily Hollywood column for The Associated Press.

Three years later he became an aide to Harrison Carroll, the gossip columnist for the now-defunct Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.

In 1953 he was chosen to write Daily Variety's "Just for Variety" column, which was required morning reading for Hollywood's movers and shakers. He later went on to become one of the first journalists to be honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His marriage to Joan Archerd, which produced two children, Amanda and Evan, ended in divorce in 1969 after 25 years. He married his second wife, Selma, in 1970.

Archerd is survived by his wife, his son and two stepsons.

Speech Debelle wins UK's Mercury Prize

LONDON (AP)—Hip-hop songstress Speech Debelle won the Barclaycard Mercury Prize on Tuesday for her album "Speech Therapy," a work inspired by a period the young rapper spent homeless.

Debelle's warm vocals and clever lyrics won out over 11 other acts, including Kasabian and Bat for Lashes, to scoop the prize—a 20,000 pound ($33,000) award which typically goes to outsiders over more established acts.

"I feel so good," the 26-year-old said after her win. "It feels better than I imagined. My family's here. My friends are here. I'm from south London. I don't get emotional—I'm emotional."

This year's shortlist was a typically eclectic mix, including fellow south Londoner Florence + the Machine, synth-heavy La Roux, and haunting electro-folk group Sweet Billy Pilgrim. Others in the running were The Horrors, Glasvegas, Led Bib, The Invisible, Lisa Hannigan, and Friendly Fires.

Critics have praised Debelle's honeyed delivery and moving narratives.

Judge Charles Hazlewood said the singer, who spent time in a hostel when her parents asked her to leave following her troubled teenage years, was "just quietly telling her stories in the most beguiling way."

Debelle has so far sold less than 3,000 albums—half of them since the album was shortlisted seven weeks ago—although Official Charts Company managing director Martin Talbot predicted a "big surge in interest."

Byatt, Coetzee on Booker Prize shortlist

The Man Booker Prize 2009
A.S. BYATT The Children's BOOK
J.M. COETZEE Summertime
THE QUICKENING MAZE ADAM FOULDS
HILARY MANTEL WOLF HALL
THE GLASS ROOM
Sarah Waters The Little Stranger
Fiction at its finest
The Man Booker Prize 2009
Fiction at its finest

AP

The six shortlisted novels for the Man Booker Prize 2009 are seen at the end of a news conference to announce the finalists in London, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009.

LONDON (AP)—Previous winners A.S. Byatt and J.M. Coetzee are among six finalists announced Tuesday for literature's prestigious Man Booker Prize. Byatt's Edwardian family saga "The Children's Book" and Coetzee's semi-autobiographical "Summertime" are leading contenders for the 50,000-pound ($82,000) fiction award.

A victory for South African Nobel literature laureate Coetzee would make him the first writer to win the Booker three times. He took the prize in 1983 with "Life & Times of Michael K" and in 1999 with "Disgrace."

Byatt won the Booker in 1990 for "Possession."

They face strong competition for a prize that always attracts the attention of literary-minded gamblers. Bookies have reported a surge of bets on Hilary Mantel's "Wolf Hall," a historical novel set during the reign of Henry VIII. Bookmaker William Hill made Mantel 4/5 favorite for the prize, well ahead of the rest of the field.

The other contenders are Adam Foulds' "The Quickening Maze," inspired by 19th-century poet John Clare; Simon Mawer's "The Glass Room," the story of a Jewish family set against the backdrop of the rise of Nazism; and Sarah Waters' "The Little Stranger," a spooky tale that unfolds in 1940s England.

The Booker is open to writers from Britain, Ireland or the Commonwealth of former British colonies. Apart from Coetzee, all this year's finalists are British.

Journalist James Naughtie, who is chairing the judging panel, said they were all "writers on the top of their form."

"There is thundering narrative, great inventiveness, poetry and sharp human insight in abundance," he said.

The Booker almost always brings a big surge in sales for the winner—and a welcome boost for book stores.

Jonathan Ruppin of Foyles' bookstore chain welcomed a shortlist he said had strong commercial potential.

"It's noticeable that this year the majority of writers in contention all have a few books to their names already, which perhaps underlines the fact that most outstanding authors are like vintage wines, developing a fuller, richer appeal as their careers progress," Ruppin said.

"For bookshops, winners with a few books under their belt already tend to be better for sales: this gets people buying more books by that author and, we hope, encourages them to start exploring beyond the best-sellers at the front of the shop."

The winner will be announced Oct. 6.

The award was founded in 1969 and was long known as the Booker Prize. It was renamed the Man Booker Prize when the financial services conglomerate Man Group PLC began sponsoring it several years ago.

Yale criticized for nixing Muslim cartoons in book

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Yale University has removed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad from an upcoming book about how they caused outrage across the Muslim world, drawing criticism from prominent alumni and a national group of university professors. Yale cited fears of violence.

Yale University Press, which the university owns, removed the 12 caricatures from the book "The Cartoons That Shook the World" by Brandeis University professor Jytte Klausen. The book is scheduled to be released next week.

A Danish newspaper originally published the cartoons—including one depicting Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban—in 2005. Other Western publications reprinted them.

The following year, the cartoons triggered massive protests from Morocco to Indonesia. Rioters torched Danish and other Western diplomatic missions. Some Muslim countries boycotted Danish products.

Islamic law generally opposes any depiction of the prophet, even favorable, for fear it could lead to idolatry.

"I think it's horrifying that the campus of Nathan Hale has become the first place where America surrenders to this kind of fear because of what extremists might possibly do," said Michael Steinberg, an attorney and Yale graduate.

Steinberg was among 25 alumni who signed a protest letter sent Friday to Yale Alumni Magazine that urged the university to restore the drawings to the book. Other signers included John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush, former Bush administration speechwriter David Frum and Seth Corey, a liberal doctor.

"I think it's intellectual cowardice," Bolton said Thursday. "I think it's very self defeating on Yale's part. To me it's just inexplicable."

Cary Nelson, president of the American Association of University Professors, wrote in a recent letter that Yale's decision effectively means: "We do not negotiate with terrorists. We just accede to their anticipated demands."

In a statement explaining the decision, Yale University Press said it decided to exclude a Danish newspaper page of the cartoons and other depictions of Muhammad after asking the university for help on the issue. It said the university consulted counterterrorism officials, diplomats and the top Muslim official at the United Nations.

"The decision rested solely on the experts' assessment that there existed a substantial likelihood of violence that might take the lives of innocent victims," the statement said.

Republication of the cartoons has repeatedly resulted in violence around the world, leading to more than 200 deaths and hundreds of injuries, the statement said. It also noted that major newspapers in the United states and Britain have declined to print the cartoons.

"Yale and Yale University Press are deeply committed to freedom of speech and expression, so the issues raised here were difficult," the statement said. "The press would never have reached the decision it did on the grounds that some might be offended by portrayals of the Prophet Muhammad."

John Donatich, director of Yale University Press, said the critics are "grandstanding." He said it was not a case of censorship because the university did not suppress original content that was not available in other places.

"I would never have agreed to censor original content," Donatich said.

Klausen was surprised by the decision when she learned of it in July. She said scholarly reviewers and Yale's publication committee comprised of faculty recommended the cartoons be included.

In Celebration of His New Life

Jose (Katsunobu) Koyama Pangelinan
Better known as "Joe"

November 26, 1939 – September 6, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Henry Sablan Pangelinan & Monica (Hideko) Koyama Pangelinan
Sister: Damiana Koyama Pangelinan
Parent-In-Laws: Vicente Vidal & Concepcion Camacho Borja Aguon
Brother & Sister-In-Laws: Juan, Katalina, Miguel, Gabriel, Vicente, Andres, Sarafin, Gregorio, Margarita, Ramon, Jesus, Rosalia, Juanita, Anuncia Borja Aguon

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his spouse, children, grandchildren, and family:

Spouse: Maria Aguon Pangelinan

Children: Joseph A. & Maricel R. Pangelinan & Children
Arlene A. & Donald J. Pangelinan-Caserio
Benjamin A. & Kirsten J. Pangelinan & Children
Henry A. & Lynn A. Pangelinan & Children
Vincent A. & Pilar O. Pangelinan & Children
Steven A. Pangelinan & Children

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Frederick K. & Leonora DL. Pangelinan & Children
Ernesta K. & Tomas Rueb & Children
Mariano K. & Soledad C. Pangelinan & Children
Benny K. & Josie J. Pangelinan & Children
Vivian K.P. & Joaquin B. Cruz & Children
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan & Children
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan & Children
Henry Jr. K. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan & Children
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan & Children
George K. & Evelyn M. Pangelinan & Children
Cynthia P. Pangelinan & Children
Glenn M. Pangelinan & Children
James M. Pangelinan
Michelle M. Pangelinan-Clark
Evonne M. Pangelinan
Evelyn P. Pangelinan
And the Koyama Family in Japan

Reared Brother:
Sachio & Shizue Hashimoto & Children

He will also be missed by numerous cousins, cousin-in-laws, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, great-grand nephews, great-grandnieces, and relatives.

Nightly rosary is being held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning Monday, September 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. On September 14, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from Cabrera funeral Home and will be taken to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Memorial mass will be at 10:00 a.m. His remains will be repatriated to Guam on September 15, 2009. On September 16, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from Our Lady of peace Memorial Home and will be taken to San Vicente Church in Barrigada. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 a.m., after which, his remains will be escorted to his final resting place at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens in Windward Hills, Yona.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
THE FAMILY

First Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Juan Manibusan Diaz

We would like to invite our relatives and friends as we commemorate the eternal life of our Father/Grandfather/Great Grandfather.

Daily Mass of Intentions will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at San Jose Church beginning Thursday, September 3 through September 11, 2009 except Sunday, September 6, 2009, (7:30 a.m. Mass).

Rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. at the family residence in Oleai.

On Friday, September 11, 2009 Mass of intention will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at San Jose Church and dinner will immediately follow at the family residence.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

I Familia

IN LOVING MEMORY

†ALFONSO SAN NICOLAS REYES

October 22, 1936 - September 04, 2009

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: **Anunciacion Aquino Reyes**

PARENTS: **†Antonio T. & †Maria SN. Reyes**
PARENTS-IN-LAW: **Alfred F. & Rosalia A. Fleming**
†Felipe Aquino

CHILDREN/IN-LAWS/GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILD:
Felipe & Nora Aquino (Noralynn, Kaisha, Janessa, Felesia, Hanika, Ina Bonita, Felipe Jr., Brandon)
Rodel & **Manuela Manlulu** (Alfred, Rodel Jr., Romar, Rosalia, Ronnie)
Rosalia Maria Reyes (Cecily Borja {*Aleecia Jade Borja Jones*})
Lovina A. Reyes
Peter & **Elaine Dela Cruz** (Pia Elayne, Peter II, Prestin Peter, Pevika)
Alfonso A. Reyes Jr. & Marian Dela Cruz (Ha'ani, DiaNoah, Aysha, Journey)
Anthony & Angela Reyes (Napu Anthony, Osi, Tano, Diseya, Inatua)
Joaquin & Velma Reyes
Alexandro Reyes & Joelyn Ariola (Winnisia A. Reyes)
Justin Fungkugub

BROTHERS / SISTERS / IN-LAWS:
†Mariano SN. & †Beatrice S. Reyes
†Joaquin SN. & †Izang Reyes
†Jose SN. & †Catalina Reyes
†Benvinido SN. & †Vicenta Reyes
†Prudencio SN. & Delgadina Reyes
Dionicio SN. & Rosa Reyes
†Estefania SN. & †Tobias Muna
†Remedio SN. & †Ignacio Dela Cruz
†Ursula SN. Reyes
†Maximina SN. Reyes & Edward Flores

Daily recitation of the Holy Rosary is being prayed at 8:00 p.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian.

On Saturday, September 12, 2009 responso service will begin at 8:00 a.m.
followed by the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m.
Interment follows immediately at Tinian Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Anunciacion Aquino Reyes
Children and Family

Clooney speeds into Venice for premiere of 'Goats'

VENICE, Italy (AP)—George Clooney wants viewers to know one thing about his new movie, a comic tale of "psychic warfare" by the U.S. military: It's not a war movie.

"The Men Who Stare at Goats," directed by Grant Heslov, was shown out of competition Tuesday at the Venice Film Festival.

Based on Jon Ronson's book of the same name and inspired by true events, the movie features an all-star cast that also includes Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges and Kevin Spacey.

It's a madcap comedy about reporter Bob Wilton, played by McGregor, who is looking for a big scoop in a war zone when he meets Lyn Cassady, played by Clooney—a member of a unit that wants to change the way wars are fought by employing paranormal powers.

"I think we looked at this and thought it wasn't an Iraq war film," Clooney said at a press conference Tuesday.

"We thought it was a comedy about some crazy ideas that went on, that started at the end of the Vietnam war and carried on through, not that long ago and maybe still carry on," he said.

In the movie, Wilton joins Cassady and they cross from Kuwait into Iraq together. The founder of the New Earth Army unit that deals with paranormal warfare is soldier-turned-new age hippie Bill Django, played by Bridges.

"Goats" marks Heslov's directorial debut. It teams up Clooney with Heslov again after "Good Night, and Good Luck," which Clooney directed and Heslov produced, a movie on the true-life clashes between newsman Edward R. Murrow and Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

True to his style, Clooney joked when asked if he researched paranormal powers for the movie.

"At the premiere I am going to actually walk through a wall," he quipped.

"What we love about this film and what is so fun about it is there is a tremendous amount of it that is true. And as funny as it is, it's some of the dumbest parts of the film that are the true parts," he added.

During the news conference, a fan of Clooney stripped to his boxer shorts in front of the Hollywood star and asked if he could "kiss him, just once."

"I am gay, George," the unidentified man said. "Take me, choose me, George, please. May I kiss you, just once?"

Clooney was unflappable in responding with a smile, "It's hard when you take a big chance and it doesn't really work."

AP

US actor George Clooney and Italian actress Elisabetta Canalis arrive for the screening of the film ' The Men Who Stare at Goats ' at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009.

Clooney arrived in Venice by speedboat on Monday night, with Italian actress Elisabetta Canalis in tow. The two, who have been seen together recently, walked the red carpet Tuesday evening, holding hands and waving at the crowd. Clooney also signed autographs for his fans.

Clooney's right hand was bandaged. He said he broke it an a car door.

Clooney, who owns a villa on Lake Como and spends time in Italy, is a frequent guest at the festival.

"Honestly, this is the only premiere that you come up to in a boat," he said.

Also screening out of competition on Tuesday was Antoine Fuqua's "Brooklyn's Finest," a drama focusing on the lives of three Brooklyn police officers.

Cast members Wesley Snipes and co-star Shannon Kane were on hand with Fuqua, with Ethan Hawke expected in time for the midnight red carpet.

In the film, Snipes portrays a gang leader and Hawke a narcotics police officer. Richard Gere and Don Cheadle star as police officers whose lives show the strain of too many years on duty.

The Venice Film Festival runs through Sept. 12.

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Gamer

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Sat & Sun	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Set in the near future, a time when mind-control technology has taken society by storm. Humans control other humans in a mass-scale, multiplayer online game. Reclusive billionaire Ken Castle has created the controversial form of entertainment, "Slayers," a hugely popular game that allows millions to act out their innermost desires and fantasies - online - in front of a global audience. Gaming has evolved into a terrifying new dimension-mind control-manipulation-people playing people. At the center is Kable, the superstar and cult hero of "Slayers," the savage, ultra-violent first person shooter game.

★ ★ ★

Final Destination 4

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Sat & Sun	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Monday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Bobby Campo, Shantel VanSanten
Supernatural • Rated R

Synopsis
On what should have been a fun-filled day at the races, Nick O'Bannon has a horrific premonition in which a bizarre sequence of events causes multiple race cars to crash, sending flaming debris into the stands, brutally killing his friends and causing the upper deck of the stands to collapse on him. When he comes out of this grisly nightmare Nick panics, persuading his girlfriend, Lori, and their friends, Janet and Hunt, to leave... escaping seconds before Nick's frightening vision becomes a terrible reality. Thinking they've cheated death, the group has a new lease on life, but unfortunately for Nick and Lori, it is only the beginning.

Inglourious Basterds

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Sat & Sun	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Brad Pitt, Diane Kruger
Political • Rated R

Synopsis
In the first year of the German occupation of France, Shosanna Dreyfus witnesses the execution of her family at the hand of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa. Shosanna narrowly escapes and flees to Paris where she forges a new identity as the owner and operator of a cinema. Elsewhere in Europe, Lieutenant Aldo Raine organizes a group of Jewish American soldiers to perform swift, shocking acts of retribution. Later known to their enemy as "the basterds," Raine's squad joins German actress and undercover agent Bridget von Hammersmark on a mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich.

Shorts

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:55
Sat & Sun	1:05	4:10	7:15	9:55
Monday	1:05	4:10	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short
Children • Rated PG

The Time Traveler's Wife

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Sat & Sun	1:25	4:20	7:05	9:35
Monday	1:25	4:20	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

District 9

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Sat & Sun	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Monday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Sharito Copley, Jason Cope
Sci-Fi • Rated R

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Sat & Sun	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Tolkien estate, New Line settle lawsuit over films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The heirs of J.R.R. Tolkien and a movie studio that produced the blockbuster "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy have settled a lawsuit over the films' profits, it was announced Tuesday.

The out-of-court resolution clears the way for a two-film prequel based on Tolkien's novel "The Hobbit" and will benefit charities around the world, according to a joint press release announcing the settlement.

The lawsuit had sought to rescind New Line Cinema's rights to make films based on the book.

Tolkien's heirs sued New Line Cinema in February 2008, claiming the studio owed it millions in profits from the movies released between 2001 and 2003. The films earned an estimated $6 billion in sales of movie tickets, DVDs and merchandise.

No settlement paperwork has yet been filed with a Los Angeles court. The terms of the deal are being kept confidential.

Tolkien

"We deeply value the contributions of the Tolkien novels to the success of our films and are pleased to have put this litigation behind us," said Alan Horn, president and chief operating officer of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

Warner Bros. acquired New Line in March 2008.

One of the main beneficiaries of the settlement is The Tolkien Trust, a British charity that supports causes around the world.

Christopher Tolkien, one of the author's trustees, said the lawsuit was regrettable, but the estate is "glad that this dispute has been settled on satisfactory terms that will allow The Tolkien Trust to properly pursue its charitable objectives."

Bonnie Eskenazi, an attorney who handled the lawsuit for the Tolkien estate, said the settlement vindicated the heirs and will touch more than just movie audiences.

The lawsuit claimed Tolkien's trust received only an upfront payment of $62,500 for the three movies before production began but was due 7.5 percent of the gross receipts.

Blige, Brown to perform at Vienna Jackson tribute

VIENNA (AP)—Top artists such as Mary J. Blige, Akon and Chris Brown will sing some of Michael Jackson's greatest hits at a Sept. 26 global tribute that also will feature a virtual duet between the King of Pop and one of his brothers, organizers said Tuesday.

But the much-anticipated lineup was a disappointment to a throng of reporters who had speculated that superstars such as Madonna would be part of the show to be staged in front of a 17th-century palace in the Austrian capital.

"Just hold your horses!" Jackson's brother Jermaine said at a packed news conference in Vienna's city hall, suggesting that some major names might still be added to the list.

Event promoter Georg Kindel said that up to 25 performers are expected to participate in concert that is being billed as the main global tribute for Jackson, who died June 25 in Los Angeles. More names will be unveiled later this week in London and Berlin, Kindel said.

Sister Sledge, Natalie Cole, Angela Bassett, and the Germany-based boy band US5 also are among the 13 artists confirmed so far, Jermaine Jackson said. In addition, Jackson's original band and dancers will take part.

"We're very excited—the list is growing more and more," Jermaine Jackson said, adding that "many major Bollywood names" and artists from the Middle East also would be involved.

All the artists will play some of Jackson's greatest hits at the concert, including "Thriller," "Billie Jean," "Black or White" and "Bad."

"We will honor on this night not only the musician and artist Michael Jackson but also the humanitarian," Kindel said. "He's really someone who changed the history of music."

Jackson's family and children—as well as 65,000 fans—are expected to attend the tribute to be held on a large stage with a crown on its roof and two runways in front of Vienna's former imperial Schoenbrunn Palace, one of the Austrian capital's top tourist attractions, Kindel said. A "significant portion" of the proceeds from the event will be donated to charity, he added.

Tila Tequila's attorney: Linebacker's story 'spin'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tila Tequila's attorney on Tuesday called San Diego Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman's explanation of an altercation with the reality star that led to his arrest "spin" and predicted it would be discredited.

Attorney Alan S. Gutman said in a statement that Merriman's public comments that he was trying to protect Tequila, who he thought was drunk, amount to another attack on his client.

"Shawne Merriman and his advisors have decided that the best defense is a good offense, attacking Tila Tequila in the press with a lot of calculated spin to cover up his illegal and indefensible actions," Gutman's statement read.

However, society won't tolerate a physical assaulting on a young woman who weighs 93 pounds by an All-Pro linebacker who weighs 270 pounds, he said.

Merriman was arrested early Sunday after Tequila accused him of choking and throwing her while she was at his suburban San Diego home. Tequila signed a citizen's arrest warrant accusing Merriman of battery and false imprisonment. Both are felonies.

AP

In this Dec. 31, 2007 file photo, TV Personality Tila Tequila makes an appearance at MTV Studios in New York.

Tequila, whose real name is Tila Nguyen, is best known for "A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila," which ran for two seasons on MTV. The bisexual dating show featured men and women vying for Tequila's affections. She has also modeled for Playboy and other men's magazines.

Prosecutors will have to decide whether to press charges, and Merriman and his attorney, Todd Macaluso, have said they expect him to be vindicated. Macaluso did not immediately return an e-mail message seeking comment Tuesday night.

Merriman issued a statement Sunday denying wrongdoing and saying he was trying to keep Tequila from leaving his home because she appeared to be intoxicated.

"I in no way caused any harm to Ms. Nguyen, however, paramedics were called and she was examined but no injuries were reported," Merriman's statement read.

Merriman is one of the NFL's hardest-hitting players and is nicknamed "Lights Out" for his savage hits.

The three-time Pro Bowl selection has been getting back into shape after having season-ending knee surgery following the 2008 opener.

"It is never justifiable to brutally assault, choke, strike and imprison a woman," Gutman wrote in the statement. "Once the truth is fully revealed, Mr. Merriman's fantastic story of how he was trying to keep Ms. Tequila safe will be completely discredited."

Australian actor Ray Barrett dies at 82

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Veteran Australian actor Ray Barrett, who became a star of British television in the 1960s, has died, his agent said Wednesday. He was 82.

Barrett's last film role was as the character Ramsden in director Baz Luhrmann's movie "Australia," released last year.

His Sydney agent Jane Cameron said Barrett died in hospital Tuesday after a fall at his home at Gold Coast city in Queensland state.

"He was an extraordinarily good actor who loved doing it," Cameron said. "He was such a skilled actor that he was always a very solid presence on the screen."

Raymond Charles Barrett was born in the Queensland capital Brisbane on May 2, 1927. He moved to England in the late 1950s and starred in the long-running British television series "The Troubleshooters" in the 1960s.

Cameron said Barrett did a wide range of acting work in the United Kingdom for almost 20 years, including voices for the iconic puppet television series "Thunderbirds," before he returned to Australia in the mid-1970s.

In Australia, he became a prominent player in a rejuvenated Australian film industry. He received one of Australia's greatest acting accolades, an Australian Film Industry Award for Best Supporting Actor, for his role in director Fred Schepisi's 1978 film "The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith."

Barrett is survived by his third wife, Gaye, a daughter from his first marriage, Suellen, and two sons from his second marriage, Reg and John.

Crankin': Patterson to write 17 books in 3 years

NEW YORK (AP)—After more than 40 best sellers, James Patterson is just getting started.

He has agreed to a 17-book deal with his longtime publisher, the Hachette Book Group—an unthinkable commitment for most writers, but for Patterson a mere three years worth of work.

"Jim has all of these incredible franchises," says his literary representative, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, who cited such popular series as "Maximum Ride," "Daniel X" and the Alex Cross detective stories. "And when you put all of those franchises together, that's a lot of books."

Hachette announced Tuesday that the ultra-prolific novelist will turn out 10 adult thrillers, one nonfiction work and six novels for young people by the end of 2012. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Patterson will have help with those books. His co-authors have included Maxine Paetro and Andrew Gross and he will continue to use collaborators, Barnett says.

"Whenever he works with a co-author he fully discloses it," Barnett says. "There's no secret he works with collaborators."

Patterson

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Janet Jackson to open MTV Video Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Janet Jackson will pay tribute to her late brother at the MTV Video Music Awards. The network says Jackson will open the show with a musical tribute to Michael Jackson, who died on June 25. Janet Jackson also honored her brother at the BET Awards in June, just days after his death. The Video Music Awards will be presented Sunday at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Jon Gosselin says he despises estranged wife Kate

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Gosselin says he despises his estranged wife Kate, and believes she took his wedding ring. The reality TV star told ABC News' Chris Cuomo on "Good Morning America" that he set down his ring one day and it vanished. He says no one else could have taken it. He also accuses Kate of verbally abusing him and beating him down during their marriage. Jon's remarks came from his first TV interview since divorce papers were filed in June. Kate has made a number of her own interview appearances in recent weeks. The Gosselins continue to co-star on TLC's hit reality show "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which documents the challenges of raising their twins and sextuplets. A longer version of Jon's interview airs tonight on ABC's "Primetime: Family Secrets."

Michael Feinstein plans a return to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Feinstein plans a return to Broadway early next year—his first appearance there in nearly 20 years. The show is tentatively called "All About Me." It will feature the vocalist and pianist accompanied by a small orchestra in an evening of standards. Producer Jeffrey Richards says the show will open sometime in February at a theater and date to be announced. Feinstein last appeared on Broadway in 1990 in "Michael Feinstein in Concert: Piano and Voice."

Stroup says bipolar role on '90210' is challenge

NEW YORK (AP)—Jessica Stroup says she appreciates the challenge of playing someone with a mental disorder. The 23-year-old actress plays the bipolar Silver on the reincarnation of "90210" on the CW network. The show's second season makes its premiere Tuesday night. Stroup says she's careful not to play Silver's mood swings too over the top. She says she did as much research on the disorder as she could because "it's something that touches so many people but isn't really explored." Stroup says some people "have reached out to me to say they watched and it meant a lot." Like the original show from the 1990s, "90210" follows a group of teenagers in Beverly Hills. "90210" will air at 8 p.m. EDT on the CW.

Wives find many ways to cool off hot husbands

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: At the age of 72, having had two spouses over the years, I need to put in my two cents regarding the letter from "Still Hot and Bothered in Georgia" (July 8). I have learned that some women won't say "no!" to a husband's amorous advances, especially in the morning. But they will try to distract him by scrubbing the tub, spotting a spider on the wall, feeding the cat or saying she forgot to fold the laundry and has to do it before it wrinkles. Whether it's conscious or unconscious, they do it to cool their husbands off on a "hot" morning.

"Still Hot and Bothered" may need to give some thought to what turns his wife on or off—especially the timing. After all, we are from Mars and they are from Venus.

ALEX IN BLUE BELL, PA.

DEAR ALEX: I agree that timing is important. My office was showered with responses from readers who were steamed over my response to that letter. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The guys and I enjoy reading your column out loud to see if we agree or not with your advice. We were unanimous in our disagreement with your advice to "Still Hot and Bothered."

We would have been torqued if our wife had stayed in the shower to clean it instead of coming to bed for a good romp. We also would have showered with our wife to start the festivities early and then moved to the bedroom.

Several of the guys said they'd have gotten into the shower and made the cleaning come to a halt. There's a time for cleaning, and it's not when your husband is waiting with his motor running.

THE GUYS IN THE ELECTRIC LAB,
HARRISONBURG, VA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm not against spontaneous cleaning (I do it myself), but the fact that the wife would rather clean than spend time with her husband tells me she's either unable to read his signals or she just doesn't care to be close and intimate with him. It also shows a lack of judgment, compassion and understanding on her part.

If the situation were reversed and he had decided he'd rather watch sports than be with his wife, I'm sure she would have been equally upset. I don't think the rules should be different for men and women in this regard. And yes, I am a woman.

HEATHER IN KANKAKEE, ILL.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It appears that these days couples never have time for each other. Instead, they have their "individual" priorities before their "married" priorities.

When you compare the life expectancy of women vs. men, that woman will probably have years to clean the shower by herself without worrying about her mate.

KEN IN SULPHUR, LA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Men just don't get it! Women don't have on/off switches like men do. Atmosphere is very important for us. My husband enjoys "getting close" in the mornings, too -- but I usually wake up with my to-do list running in my head. It is very difficult for me to get in the mood when there's work to be done.

Obviously, the wife in that letter wasn't ready to play. Instead of getting upset, her husband should have gotten creative and helped to set her mood.

BRENDA IN FORT WORTH

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THE FEARLESS SPACEMAN SPIFF IS BEING PURSUED ACROSS THE GALAXY BY DREADED SCUM BEINGS!
THEY'RE GAINING! SPIFF'S ONLY CHANCE TO LOSE THEM IS TO RELEASE A GIANT SMOKE CLOUD BEHIND HIS SPACECRAFT! OUR HERO THROWS THE LEVER!
HEH HEH... JUST UH, CLAPPING THE ERASERS, HEH HEH... (COUGH)
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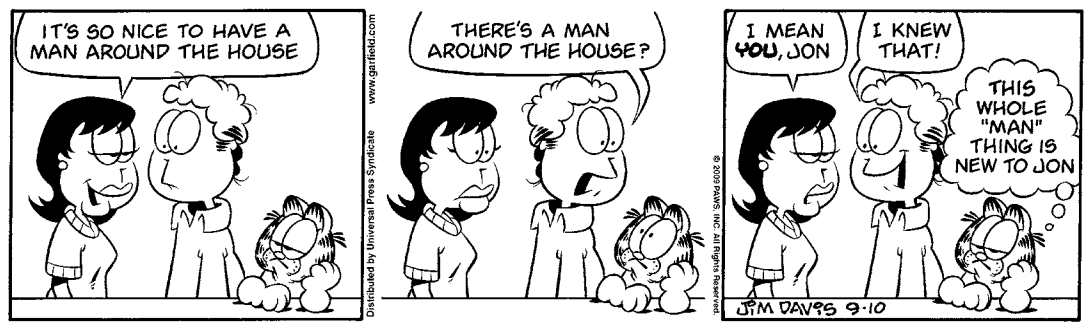
YOU AGAIN?
SIGHHHH I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT EVEN 8:30 YET.
9/10

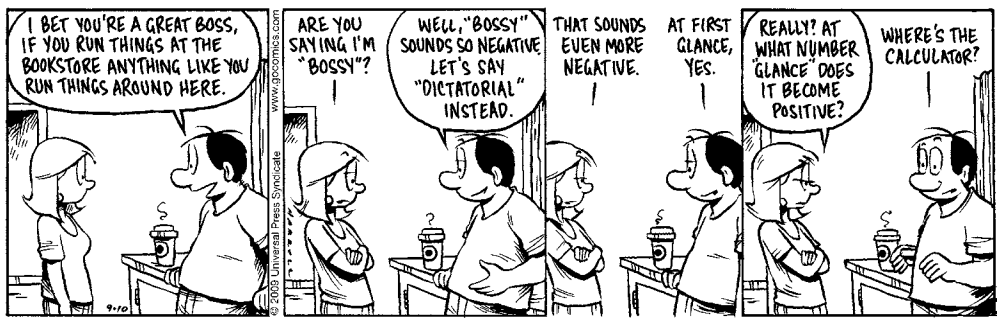
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE A MAN AROUND THE HOUSE
THERE'S A MAN AROUND THE HOUSE?
I MEAN YOU, JON
I KNEW THAT!
THIS WHOLE "MAN" THING IS NEW TO JON
JIM DAVIS 9-10
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate www.garfield.com

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I BET YOU'RE A GREAT BOSS, IF YOU RUN THINGS AT THE BOOKSTORE ANYTHING LIKE YOU RUN THINGS AROUND HERE.
ARE YOU SAYING I'M "BOSSY"?
WELL, "BOSSY" SOUNDS SO NEGATIVE LET'S SAY "DICTATORIAL" INSTEAD.
THAT SOUNDS EVEN MORE NEGATIVE.
AT FIRST GLANCE, YES.
REALLY? AT WHAT NUMBER "GLANCE" DOES IT BECOME POSITIVE?
WHERE'S THE CALCULATOR?
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9-10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hi. I'M RAISING MONEY. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY SOME MAGAZINES?
ONLY IF IT'S A GOOD CAUSE. WHAT ARE YOU RAISING MONEY FOR?
MY COLLEGE SPRING BREAK TRIP.
HERE'S A FIVER.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

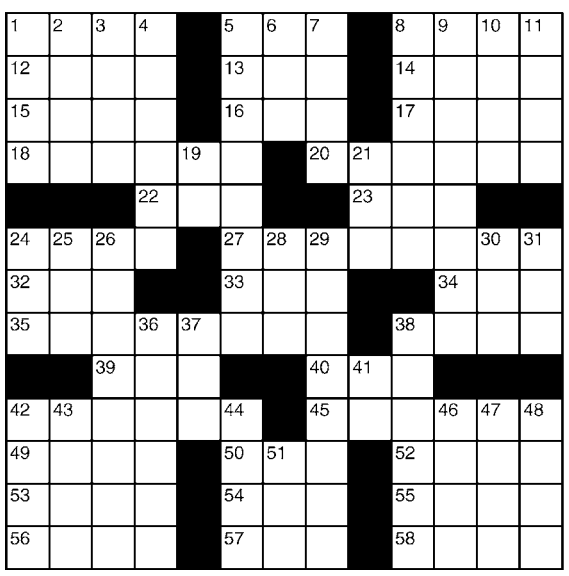
ACROSS
1 Kane's Rosebud, e.g.
5 Decline
8 Kelly or Krupa
12 Newsweek rival
13 Noon, in a sense
14 Yoked team
15 "Yeah, right!"
16 Army rank (Abbr.)
17 Raced
18 Fancy cake
20 "Star Wars" weapons
22 Pompous one
23 Up to
24 Help in wrongdoing
27 Model
32 Curse
33 Tex- — restaurant
34 Tokyo's old name
35 Champion of a cause
38 Vortex
39 Falsehood
40 River to the North Sea
42 Tristan's love
45 Bad news from the factory
49 MacDonald's place
50 Muumuu accessory
52 Buckeyes' home
53 Gratis
54 Past
55 Cavort
56 Knitting need
57 Neither partner
58 Category

DOWN
1 Unpartnered
2 Bart's sister
3 Send forth
4 Vanquish
5 "Oops"
6 Story of a lifetime?
7 Check
8 Tabloid topic
9 Made to leave
10 — -do-well
11 Remnants
19 Symbol for arsenic
21 $ dispenser
24 Mimic
25 Carton
26 Lewis or Clark
28 Foreign (Prefix)
29 Outside
30 Tack on
31 Trigger's rider
36 Rockefeller et al.
37 Actor Beatty
38 Go with
41 Northeastern-most st.
42 Questionable
43 Poet Teasdale
44 Verve
46 "Hey, sailor!"
47 Flaccid
48 Run easily
51 Id counterpart

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	O	L	D	■	H	A	M	■	G	R	O	W
A	G	A	R	■	U	S	A	■	R	U	B	E
C	L	U	E	L	E	S	S	■	A	T	O	P
T	E	D	D	Y	■	■	S	A	C	H	E	T
■	■	■	G	E	A	R	■	G	E	L	■	■
M	I	T	E	■	C	O	V	E	■	E	S	C
P	O	I	■	E	N	D	E	D	■	S	I	R
H	U	M	■	D	E	E	R	■	E	S	P	Y
■	■	E	G	G	■	O	B	E	Y	■	■	■
W	A	L	L	E	T	■	■	R	E	V	U	P
A	R	E	A	■	H	A	I	R	L	E	S	S
D	I	S	C	■	U	L	M	■	I	R	E	S
E	A	S	E	■	G	A	S	■	D	A	R	T

Yesterday's answer 9-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 35; Amy Irving, 56; Joe Perry, 59; Jose Feliciano, 64

Happy Birthday: Focus on incorporating interesting people into your life. This is a year to live, learn and discover what makes you feel content and happy. A change that you face may not be to your liking but you will realize it's exactly what you need. The possibilities are endless. Your numbers are 5, 17, 28, 33, 38, 44, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Reconnect with someone from your past and the information you gather will help with a current partnership. Your experience will save you from repeating mistakes. You'll be positioned for success. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your sensitivity toward others will help you pick up important signals from colleagues, peers or people you don't know well. Use that information to make a decision regarding your job security. Inquire into other possible positions. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let negative people convince you that things are falling apart when you are actually sitting in a pretty good position. Times may be changing but that doesn't mean that the alterations won't favor you in the end. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Anything you can do to make your place more comfortable and inviting should be your goal. Taking care of responsibilities or problems brought on by a family member will make your life easier and less stressful. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let your emotions rule your head. An opportunity that is offered may not be the answer, once you look at what it entails. However, it may lead to a more efficient and affordable way of doing things. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You should be able to make a professional move that will free up time to work on something you enjoy more. A small business may be your ticket to financial freedom. Don't spend without knowing what you're getting in return. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Bypass anyone giving you a hard time and focus on what brings you joy and knowledge. Time spent with people you find inspiring will lead to an interesting partnership. Visit an unusual destination or someone from a different cultural background. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A jealous peer may withhold information that can help you get ahead. Don't be afraid to get involved in groups that contribute to your goals. You have great ideas but you need to share with people who can help you get them up and running. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will have to move fast in order to stay ahead of someone with more experience and few scruples. Love is in the stars but, if you think with your heart instead of with your head, you will make a mistake that will cost you emotionally as well as financially. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There is a lot you can do to raise your financial status. A contract can be developed and signed that will promise you security as well as a much needed change. Don't get angry—get moving. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will have everything under control as long as you immediately address personal issues involving money. You can cut a deal or enhance your position, enabling you to strive for a goal you had to previously give up. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can strike a deal that's workable but only if you are clear about who will be responsible for what. Get everything in writing. Expect to have to make some concessions if you want to proceed. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have leadership potential. You are brave and aggressive with a romantic streak. You are persuasive, strong-willed and a fast learner. *Eugenia's Web sites:* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6		8	
	4	3		5	2			9
	2							
							4	2
	9			3			1	
5	3							
							7	
8			2	7		5	3	
	6		4					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	7	2	1	3	5	6	4
6	3	1	5	7	4	8	2	9
2	4	5	9	6	8	3	7	1
8	6	4	1	2	5	7	9	3
7	2	3	8	9	6	4	1	5
1	5	9	3	4	7	6	8	2
3	7	2	6	5	1	9	4	8
4	9	8	7	3	2	1	5	6
5	1	6	4	8	9	2	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ATOMIC PHYSICS **Solution: 9 letters**

S	N	O	R	T	C	E	L	E	E	M	A	T	A	D
T	E	R	O	C	I	T	E	H	T	N	Y	S	E	Y
N	E	U	T	R	O	N	S	S	I	S	P	C	R	G
E	S	S	K	A	E	P	N	R	H	O	A	O	A	R
M	I	M	T	O	L	O	E	M	W	Y	T	W	E	E
I	L	A	O	E	I	W	E	D	C	A	S	P	L	N
R	V	L	L	T	O	T	E	R	R	O	O	U	C	E
E	E	E	A	P	A	R	O	O	M	R	I	R	U	C
P	R	U	U	L	(H)	T	B	E	T	E	T	A	N	N
X	Q	F	L	(E)	A	A	L	S	L	S	A	N	O	A
E	E	I	(A)	R	L	T	R	A	H	C	R	I	X	T
D	C	(T)	E	X	P	O	S	U	R	E	S	U	I	S
A	S	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	S	S	M	D	B
R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	S	I	M	O	L	E	U
G	N	I	R	U	T	C	A	F	U	N	A	M	S	S

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Alpha, Atoms, Chart, Core, Data, Decay, Electrons, Energy, Equations, Experiments, Exposure, Fission, Fuel, Generator, Grade, Heat, Laboratory, Manufacturing, Melt, Metallic, Mole, Neutrons, Nuclear, Ores, Oxides, Peaks, Powder, Power, Ratios, Reactions, Reports, Silver, Solutions, Substance, Synthetic, Test, Uranium, Waste, White

Yesterday's Answer: Handheld

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate, include $2 postage for the first book order, $1 per for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Murray's US Open ends early; Clijsters-Williams II

NEW YORK (AP)—Disappointed.

That was the word Andy Murray used over and over to describe how he felt about his exit from the U.S. Open.

After all, Murray arrived at Flushing Meadows ranked No. 2, owner of a tour-leading 37 wins on hard courts this season—and quite sure he was prepared to win his first Grand Slam title a year after reaching the U.S. Open final. Instead, he heads home after the fourth round, a 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 loser to No. 16 Marin Cilic of Croatia on Tuesday.

"I just struggled today. I played poorly," Murray said. "I could have been better in pretty much every part of the game, whether it was mental or serve, forehand, backhand, returns."

And now Murray will slide back to No. 3 or No. 4 in the rankings, behind Rafael Nadal, who will move up by virtue of beating No. 13 Gael Monfils 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 in Tuesday night's last match to get to the quarterfinals.

Nadal-Monfils featured two men often cited as the best athletes on tour, and it was a spirited contest early, filled with long points, terrific retrieving, powerful hitting—and animated celebrations by both. Monfils eventually began to show signs of fatigue, leaning over to gasp for air between points, and Nadal took control.

Nadal, trying to complete a career Grand Slam by winning the U.S. Open, will meet No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile. Gonzalez eliminated No. 7 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

"First thing that I have to try is play my tennis," Gonzalez said. "If I don't play my tennis, I mean, I have no chance."

AP

Andy Murray of Britain reacts during his match against Marin Cilic of Croatia during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009. Cilic defeated Murray in three sets.

Murray definitely had his chances. Ahead 5-4, he wasted two set points. By the second set, Murray was grimacing while flexing his left wrist, which he acknowledged afterward had been bothering him for about a week. By the third, Murray was moping about the court.

"Regardless of my wrist, I lost the match," Murray said. "I returned poorly. He served well—and that was really the difference."

Murray's loss, at least for one evening, turned into the talk of a tournament that had been generating very little buzz about the men's field. Instead, the focus has been on the women's event, thanks to the surprising emergence of 17-year-old American Melanie Oudin and the quick comeback of former No. 1 Kim Clijsters.

Oudin plays in the first major quarterfinal of her nascent career Wednesday—she obliged autograph-seekers after practicing Tuesday—and Clijsters already is into the semifinals, where she will face a Williams for the second time this tournament.

Clijsters beat Venus Williams in the fourth round; now she will take on defending champion Serena Williams, who improved to 23-1 in Grand Slam singles matches this season by beating No. 10 Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-4, 6-3 Tuesday night.

Looking ahead to facing Clijsters, the younger Williams said: "She's such a great person and I, like, only wish the best for her. But not in the next match."

The 27-year-old American and 26-year-old Belgian both have 12-match winning streaks at the U.S. Open. Clijsters won the first seven en route to the 2005 title, the last time she played in New York, and now has five this year, the last a 6-2, 6-4 win against 18th-seeded Li Na of China.

Still unranked because she only had played in two tournaments before the U.S. Open, Clijsters is the first unseeded player to reach the semifinals at Flushing Meadows since Elena Dementieva in 2000.

"I'm surprised to be sitting here talking to you right now," said Clijsters, who has beaten Serena Williams only once in eight matches.

Clijsters left the game in 2007, married American basketball player Brian Lynch later that year, then gave birth to daughter Jada in February 2008. Since returning to competition in August, Clijsters is 10-2.

Two more wins, and she'll be the first mother to win a Grand Slam tournament since Evonne Goolagong Cawley at Wimbledon in 1980.

"I still have an immense respect for all the Grand Slams and the history that's happened in each and every one of them," Clijsters said, "but it's easier now to push that aside when you're out there and just focus on your game and not be too worried or too impressed by everything that's happening around you."

Murray's hopes of becoming the first British man since the 1930s to win a Grand Slam championship will have to be set aside until 2010. The pressure back home for success will only increase, matched by Murray's self-imposed expectations.

When he wasn't saying, "I'm obviously very disappointed," or "I'm going to be disappointed, but I'll have to go and work on some things," Murray was talking about being "ready to win a Slam in Australia."

"Next year I've got a very, very good chance of doing it," Murray said. "I think I'll be a better player next year than this year, and, you know, hopefully I'll do that."

Cilic, meanwhile, advanced to the first major quarterfinal of his career.

"I'm feeling tremendously happy," Cilic said. "Of course, it's the biggest result for me, so far."

Next for him is a match against No. 6 Juan Martin del Potro, who beat 2003 French Open champion and U.S. Open finalist Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Cilic vs. del Potro will pit two players who are 20, with lanky frames and big serves.

"For sure, if he beat Murray, he's confident," said del Potro, who pushed Roger Federer to five sets in the French Open semifinals this year. "It will be very tough for me."

Vick to Philly students: Resist following crowd

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick, speaking to a group of Philadelphia high school students Tuesday, warned against the dangers of peer pressure and offered himself as a cautionary tale of what can happen when someone is a follower instead of a leader.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback, who served prison time for running a dogfighting ring, addressed a rapt audience of 200 freshmen on their first day at Nueva Esperanza Academy, a North Philadelphia charter school. He urged the students to make the right choices and to resist the temptation to follow the crowd.

"I didn't choose to go the right way, which led to 18 months in prison, which was the toughest time of my life," he said. "Being away from my family, being away from my kids who I adore dearly, and being away from the game of football, doing something so foolish, and I wish I could take it all back.

"I was influenced by so many people when I should have been a leader, not a follower."

The 10-minute talk marked Vick's first anti-dogfighting public appearance in Philadelphia since he signed a one-year, $1.6 million deal with the Eagles on Aug. 13. At the time, he expressed a desire "to be part of the solution and not the problem" by speaking to children around the country about dogfighting.

Speaking without notes, Vick told the hushed assembly Tuesday that his poor decisions imperiled the goals he had set for himself.

"Growing up, I had dreams and I always wanted to have this great, lavish life and make it to the NFL, go and accomplish great things and leave a great legacy. That was my goal from a young kid," Vick said. "My future was promising ... at some point, I got sidetracked. I started listening to my friends and doing some things that were not ethical and not right."

He said he tried to do the right things at school and at home, "but I had another side to me, and it was a dark side."

Vick visited the school with Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States. Pacelle has said he met with Vick in prison at the quarterback's request and that Vick sought to work with the group after his release.

Vick and the organization are working on "a national campaign to try to reach especially young people so we can all be voices against organized animal fighting," specifically dogfighting and cockfighting, Pacelle said.

Once the highest paid player in the NFL, Vick was suspended from the league following his conviction in August 2007 on charges of conspiracy and organizing the dogfighting ring. He was released from federal custody on July 20.

Several animal rights groups criticized the team's decision to sign the quarterback, saying he is a poor example for young people.

Eagles spokeswoman Pamela Browner-Crawley has said the team has an obligation to the community, and to children particularly, to discourage them from engaging in dogfighting or any animal abuse.

Vick is suspended for the first two games of the regular season and is eligible to play beginning Sept. 27. In two preseason games, Vick completed 11 of 15 passes for 45 yards with one interception and rushed for 36 yards on eight carries with one touchdown.

Jordan picks Thompson as presenter at HOF

Michael Jordan has chosen David Thompson, another high flyer from North Carolina, to present him, while Charles Barkley and Isiah Thomas also will be presenters at the Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony.

Jordan highlights a class that includes David Robinson, John Stockton, and coaches Jerry Sloan of the Utah Jazz and C. Vivian Stringer of Rutgers. Each was asked to select a previous inductee to serve as a presenter at Friday's ceremony at Springfield, Mass.

Jordan went with a surprise by asking Thompson, the athletic swingman who led North Carolina State to the national championship in 1974—eight years before Jordan won one for the rival Tar Heels.

Stockton, the career leader in assists, requested Thomas, like himself one of the best point guards in NBA history. Sloan, Stockton's coach in Utah, asked Barkley to be his presenter.

Barkley called Sloan's invitation "one of the greatest compliments of my life."

Robinson went with Larry Brown, his first NBA coach, and fellow San Antonio Spurs Hall of Famer George Gervin.

Stringer's choice of John Chaney was perhaps the least surprising. The longtime friends were coaches of the men's and women's teams at Division II Cheyney State at the same time. ***(AP)***

Pedroia, Ortiz power Buchholz to win over Orioles

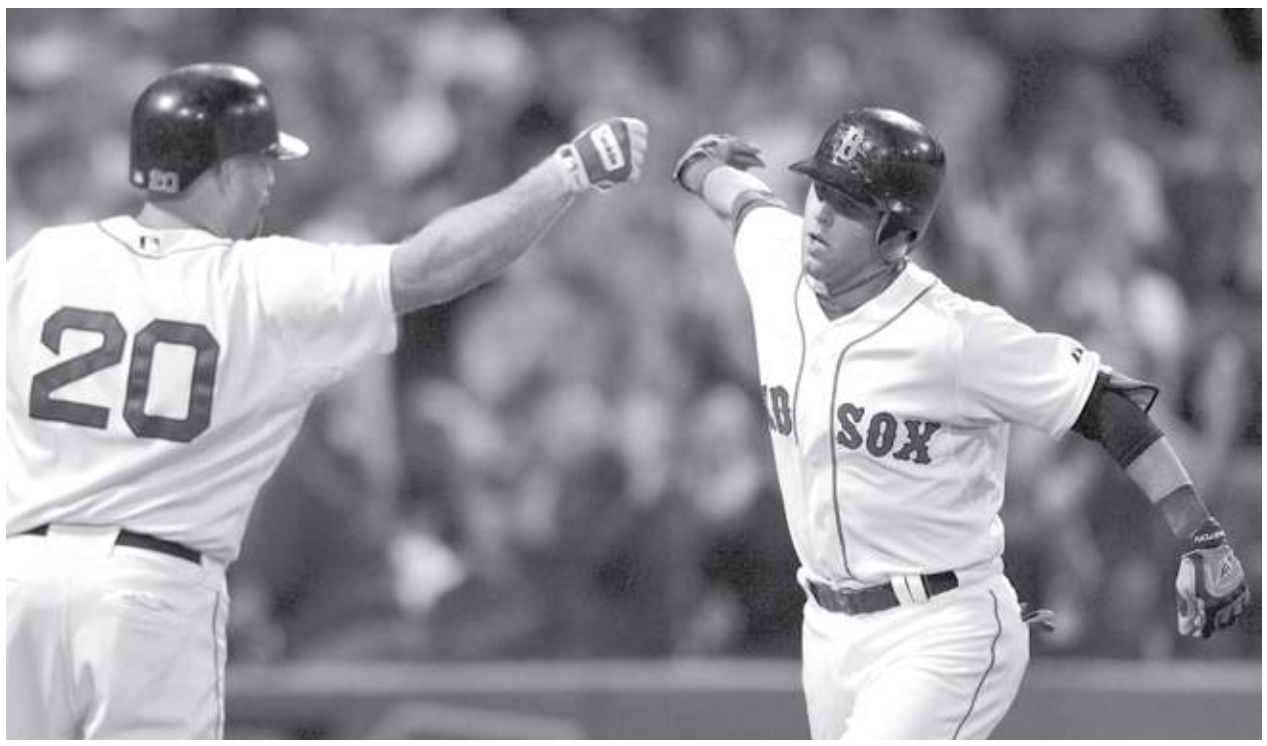
BOSTON (AP)—Clay Buchholz allowed just three hits over seven innings and Dustin Pedroia hit two of the Boston's season-high six homers as the Red Sox downed the Baltimore Orioles 10-0 in the American League on Tuesday.

David Ortiz homered in the seventh inning, his 269th as a designated hitter, tying him with Frank Thomas for the most all-time by a DH.

Kevin Youkilis, J.D. Drew and Alex Gonzalez also homered for the Red Sox, whose first five hits were homers as they opened an 8-0 lead after three innings and improved to 12-2 against Baltimore this year. For Pedroia, the reigning AL MVP, it was the first two-homer game of his career.

Michael Bowden got the last six outs to finish off the combined five-hitter.

Buchholz (5-3) struck out five and walked one to improve to 4-0 over his last five starts.



AP
Boston Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia, right, is welcomed home by Kevin Youkilis, left, after hitting a home run off Baltimore Orioles' David Hernandez in the third inning of a baseball game at Boston's Fenway Park, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009.

Yankees 3, Rays 2

At New York, Nick Swisher hit his second home run of the game, connecting with one out in the ninth inning, as New York sent Tampa Bay to its season-high seventh straight loss.

The switch-hitting Swisher connected from both sides of the plate. He won it with a left-handed shot off Dan Wheeler (4-4).

Derek Jeter struck out three times and remained stuck in his longest slump of the year, moving no closer to the Yankees hit record held by Lou Gehrig. He is in an 0-for-12 rut and still four hits behind Gehrig's total of 2,721.

Mariano Rivera (2-2) pitched a perfect ninth as the Yankees won for the 12th time in 15 games.

Angels 3, Mariners 2, 10 innings

At Anaheim, California, Erick Aybar's two-out single drove home Bobby Abreu in the 10th inning as Los Angeles overcame Seattle's All-Star closer Brian Fuentes' latest blown save.

Mike Sweeney led off the ninth with a solo homer to center off Fuentes, erasing an outstanding home debut by Scott Kazmir. The Angels' new starter left with a 2-1 lead after battling Seattle ace Felix Hernandez through the first seven innings.

Abreu led off the 10th with a single off Miguel Batista (6-4). After a sacrifice bunt, a groundout and an intentional walk, Aybar singled up the middle.

Franklin Gutierrez hit a first-inning homer for the Mariners, who have lost three straight.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 3

At Toronto, John McDonald hit a three-run homer to key Toronto's six-run sixth inning in a win over Minnesota.

Minnesota has lost 10 of 12 in Toronto and has not won consecutive games in Canada since May 2005. The Twins have lost 13 of 15 overall against the Blue Jays.

McDonald went 3 for 4 with three RBIs, boosting his season total to seven.

Jon Rauch (2-1) relieved Brian Duensing after the first three batters reached safely in the sixth but gave up a sacrifice fly, a walk and a game-tying two-run single to Edwin Encarnacion. One out later, McDonald hit his second homer.

Royals 7, Tigers 5

At Kansas City, Missouri, Billy Butler drove in two runs and Kansas City's bullpen pitched 4 1-3 scoreless innings to end Detroit's six-game winning streak.

The Royals had 11 hits and a rare strong performance from their bullpen to win consecutive games for the first time since July 27-28 against Baltimore.

Yasuhiko Yabuta (1-1) allowed two hits in 2 1-3 innings for his second career victory, Roman Colon pitched a perfect eighth and Joakim Soria survived two hits in the ninth for his 23rd save.

The AL Central-leading Tigers scored five runs off Royals starter Bruce Chen, but went through six pitchers and had two costly outfield miscues.

Marcus Thames and Aubrey Huff drove in two runs each and Ryan Raburn homered for Detroit.

Athletics 11, White Sox 3

At Chicago, Jack Cust hit a three-run homer and Mark Ellis followed with a solo shot as Oakland had five runs in the first inning of a win over Chicago.

Ryan Sweeney matched a career high with four hits, all singles, and had two RBIs.

Brett Tomko (4-3) allowed three runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings for the A's, who had 20 hits.

Paul Konerko homered for the White Sox.

Rangers 11, Indians 9, 1st game
Rangers 10, Indians 5, 2nd game

At Cleveland, rookie Julio Borbon homered twice in the first game and Marlon Byrd had seven hits as Texas swept a doubleheader against Cleveland.

The Rangers won the first game 11-9 and the nightcap 10-5 to pull within two games of Boston for the AL wild card.

Byrd raised his average 10 points in the two games to .286. He went 4 for 4 in the first game, including a three-run home run, and 3 for 5 in the nightcap.

Brandon McCarthy (7-2) started the second game and was charged with five runs in 6 1-3 innings, allowing a solo homer to Kelly Shoppach in the fifth and a two-run blast to Asdrubal Cabrera in the sixth.

Indians starter Aaron Laffey (7-5) lasted 3 1-3 innings and was charged with seven runs and 12 hits.

Texas' Chris Davis went 3 for 4 in the nightcap, including a three-run homer.

In addition to Borbon and Byrd, David Murphy homered in the first game for Texas, while Matt LaPorta and Travis Hafner homered for Cleveland.

Borbon has three homers in 70 major league at-bats after hitting just nine in 1,091 career minor league at-bats.

Texas' Neftali Feliz (1-0) picked up his first major league victory.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Matt Holliday hit a two-run homer off veteran closer Trevor Hoffman in the top of the ninth to lift the St. Louis Cardinals over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Hoffman, trying to protect a 3-2 lead, walked Albert Pujols with one out before serving up a 2-1 pitch that Holliday drove over the wall in center.

It was only the third blown save for Hoffman this season.

St. Louis maintained its 11-1/2 game lead in the NL Central with only 22 games to play.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 4

At Phoenix, Ronnie Belliard hit the last of Los Angeles' five two-out singles in the eighth inning, putting Los Angeles ahead to stay against Arizona.

Los Angeles scored just one run in the first seven innings before the Dodgers cashed in against the Arizona bullpen for their third straight victory, retaining a 3-1/2 game lead in the AL West.

Arizona, which tied a franchise record with five double plays, has lost six straight.

Rockies 3, Reds 1

At Denver, Colorado increased its lead in the wild card race to three games by downing Cincinnati.

The win was the fifth straight by the Rockies, moving them 19 games above .500 (79-60) for the first time in franchise history.

Pitcher Jason Marquis went 7-1/3 innings, allowing only one run and striking out a season-high seven. He got 12 groundball outs as he matched his career-high in wins at 15.

Colorado's Eric Young Jr. hit his first major league homer.

Padres 4, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Chase Headley homered and singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as San Diego pipped San Francisco.

The result spoiled an impressive major league debut by San Francisco pitcher Madison Bumgarner, who ceded just two runs.

The Giants fell three games behind Colorado in the NL wild-card race.

Braves 2, Astros 1

At Houston, Atlanta ended a five-game losing skid by outlasting Houston.

Braves pitcher Javier Vazquez struck out nine in seven shutout innings.

Houston's four-game winning streak was ended.

Marlins 4, Mets 2

At New York, Hanley Ramirez and Cameron Maybin hit long two-run homers as Florida kept up its surprising playoff push by defeating New York.

The Marlins remained 5-1/2 games behind Colorado in the wild card race and 6 games off first-place Philadelphia in the NL East despite starting the season with the majors' smallest payroll.

Ramirez, the NL's leading hitter, drove a pitch to deep left in the third. Maybin connected in the fourth with a shot that sailed over the home run apple nestled behind the 408-feet marker on the center-field fence.

Phillies 5, Nationals 3

At Washington, Philadelphia hit five solo home runs—including three in the seventh inning—to down Washington.

The Phillies became the 12th team in major league history with four players to get 30 homers in the same season as Raul Ibanez and Chase Utley reached that mark.

The Phillies won for the first time in five games while Washington has lost nine of 10.

Cubs 9, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Aramis Ramirez, Geovany Soto and Kosuke Fukudome had two-run hits in a record-tying first inning for Chicago.

The Cubs tied a major league record with eight consecutive hits to start the game. No team had done so in 19 years. Fukudome's two-run double was the eighth straight hit and it gave the Cubs a 6-0 lead.

The Pirates were handed their 11th loss in 12 games.

Rib injury forces Daly to cancel Australia trip

SYDNEY (AP)—John Daly has pulled out of his two-tournament trip to Australia due to a recurring rib injury he expects will sideline him for the remainder of the year.

The 1991 PGA Championship winner and 1995 British Open champion had planned to play in the Australian Open in Sydney and the Australian PGA Championship at Coolum in December, but announced Wednesday that the old injury had flared again and required surgery last week.

It was the same injury that forced him out of the U.S. PGA Championship in Minnesota after a first-round 78, when he was early into a comeback from a six-month suspension from the PGA Tour.

At the time, he said he sustained the injury trying to stop mid-swing when he heard the sound of a camera as he was taking a shot in the 2007 Honda Classic.

"I was really looking forward to getting back there this year," Daly said in a statement Wednesday. "I really regret any inconvenience this unavoidable situation may have caused for the Australian PGA and Australian Open organizers but I will look forward to returning back there next year."

Australian organizers were promoting fan favorite Daly along with Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh as the attractions of the domestic tournaments this year.

"We are obviously very disappointed that John can't make it back here for our events this summer as he was certainly a hit with the fans when he was here last year," PGA of Australia chief executive Max Garske said.

Daly has hit the headlines for more than his golf on recent trips Down Under.

He received a suspended fine from the PGA of Australia at the last Australian Open after taking a spectator's camera and throwing it against a tree at Royal Sydney's 9th hole.

Daly told the man: "You want it back, I'll buy you a new one."

Open organizers took no action, saying Daly had been bothered by the man, who was taking photos at close range despite a ban on cameras at the course.

On his late-season tour to Australia last year, Daly missed three consecutive cuts, including the Australian PGA Championship—the scene of a previous blow up. After taking a triple-bogey 7 on his last hole at the 2002 Australian PGA championships, Daly threw his putter and ball into a greenside pond and later failed to sign for a 78 on his scorecard, disqualifying himself from the tournament.

He was fined by the Australasian PGA Tour and ordered to write a letter of apology to a tour official he verbally abused.

Sparks seize solo lead, beat Celtics

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Eugene Manglona scattered 20 points as the Kagman Sparks defeated the Celtics in a low-scoring ballgame in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

Manglona's Sparks outgunned the Celtics, 47-27, in last Tuesday's lone game as Rotary cage hostilities resumed at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium following last Monday's cancellation due to technical problems.

With the victory, the Sparks remained undefeated in three games and seized the solo leadership of the youth competition.

The Sparks' win also buried the Celtics further into the bottom of the 12-team tournament with a 0-3 win-loss card.

Frank Mettao added 10 points for the Sparks, while Tim Taguchi and James Webb scored 12 and seven points, respectively, in a losing effort for the Celtics.

Last Monday's game between the G-Stars and Rollers I was reset to a later date due to a problem with one of the circuit breakers, bogging down the scoreboard and the shot clock.

A crew from the Department of Public Works fixed the problem the following morning and the games resumed Tuesday night.

Two other games were scheduled last night in the Inter-Government/Business League with Public School System taking on NTT Docomo in the first match and CPA ARFF facing MBI in the second encounter.

Sparks 47 – E.Manglona 20, Mettao 10, Pagarao 6, Norita 4, Faisao 3, Barnilla 2, M. Manglona 2

Celtics 27 – T. Taguchi 12, Webb 7, Sablan 6, Wesley 1, J.Villagomez 1

Manny shifts focus at last, flies to US

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines— It's back to boxing at last for superstar Manny Pacquiao.

Having completed most of his show business and political commitments, the Filipino pound-for-pound king will leave Wednesday for New York City to promote his showdown with Puerto Rican WBO welterweight champion Miguel Cotto on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao and Cotto will meet at the new Yankee Stadium on Thursday (Friday in Manila) in the initial stop of the busy five-city swing in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Pacquiao

From New York, Pacquiao and his entourage will fly to Cotto's hometown in Caguas, where the Puerto Rican slugger trained initially for his title defense.

Pacquiao and Cotto, who will clash at a catch weight of 145 pounds, are also slated to appear at the AT&T Park in San Francisco during an intermission in the Major League baseball game between the Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The fighters will then proceed to Beverly Hills in Los Angeles on Sept. 14, after which they will part ways.

Pacquiao, the early 2-1 favorite to claim his sixth official world crown, concludes his whirlwind appearance in the US at the Petco Park in San Diego on Sept. 15, during the game featuring the San Diego Padres and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

He is expected to return to Manila the next day to take a brief rest and to wrap up his commitments before starting his training in Baguio City.

Cotto, who has been whipping himself into shape since Aug. 3, will proceed to Tampa, Florida, where he will hold training camp for the megabuck pay-per-view bout.

Though Pacquiao has yet to start his preparations, he told sportswriters on Friday that he feels fine at 150 lb and that the remaining eight weeks will be enough for him to hit peak form. ***(PDI)***

Docomo-PCA softball tourney starts Sept. 19

Registration is now open for the Docomo Pacific-Palauan Community Association 3rd Annual Softball Tournament slated to start on Sept. 19 at its regular venue at the Dandan Ball Field.

The tournament will use a double-elimination format with a guaranteed prize money of $500 for the champion plus a specially carved trophy.

The tournament will be played on three weekends with the first one set for Sept. 19 and 20. The second part of the tournament will take place on Sept. 26 and 27, while the games in the third week will be played on Oct. 3.

PCA's Rufino Aguon said that the entry fee is $200 per team.

However, if there would be more than 10 teams that sign up, the fee would only be $150.

The deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 17.

Aguon said that a technical meeting would be held on that date starting at 6:30pm at the Northern Marinas College Gymnasium.

All the team managers of participating teams are required to attend this meeting.

Interested teams may contact Dennis Ngirchongor, Brian Adelbai, Poland Yamada, Perez Besong, Mike Towai, and Aguon. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***

JR. NETTERS

From Page 28

girls' 10-and-under singles championship match.

She then teamed up with Hur as the two won the girls' 10-and-under doubles gold medal via default.

Clayton Izuka, meanwhile, finished runner-up in the boys' 10-and-under singles division following a 2-8 loss to Derek Okuhama. He earlier advanced to the finals following an 8-2 triumph over Xander Rice.

It was the second silver medal of the tourney for Izuka as he and partner Alex Park also finished runner-up in the boys' 10-and-under doubles category.

Izuka and Park won their semifinal match against Gabriel Tan and Mason Caldwell, 8-0. However, the two lost a close 6-8 decision against Okuhama and John Pedro in the finals.

Youth tennis organizer Lydia Tan brought a total of eight Saipan junior tennis players to Saipan.

Billy Park took part in the boys' 10-and-under singles division but was knocked out in the first round following a 9-11 loss.

Alex Park also entered the same age group and was defeated in the quarterfinals by Okuhama, 4-8. He also tried his hand in the boys' 12-and-under singles division and lost to Justin Roland, 1-8.

Clayton Izuka, meanwhile, took his chances in the boys' 12-and-under division and lost to Tom Park, 5-8.

His brother, Kennedy Izuka, also saw action in the boys' 12-and-under division and lost his first round match to Saltzgaber, 3-8.

He then partnered with Fugin Shimoda of Guam in the boys' 12-and-under doubles division and they lost in the first round in a score of 6-8.

Greg Kim ByongHa played in the boys' 14-and-under division and was ousted in the first round after succumbing to David Okuhama, 1-8.

SPONSORS

From Page 28

to help bring back triathlete Jamie Whitmore, the first woman to win XTERRA Saipan.

"Jamie is excited about what we're trying to do for her out here. I am sending her updates but I haven't told her exactly how far we've come toward bringing her back to the Marianas," Ruszala said.

Bank of Saipan president and CEO Jon "JB" Bargfrede started the ball rolling when he immediately committed $500 after Ruszala's presentation at the Rotary Club of Saipan last week.

The bank took its donation one step further by opening an account in the name of the race for the organizers to keep track of all of the donated funds.

"We traditionally only accept registration on the morning of the race but this year, a number of people signed up at the Rotary meeting. Next year I believe we will offer advanced registration at the Marianas Visitors Authority and possibly online," said Ruszala.

He said he is amazed how the race has grown over the years.

"Right now it's kind of a one-man show but I have been lucky to have several people offer their assistance. Thelma Cabrera and John Jenkins both plan on participating in the event but they have also offered to help with the logistical needs of the race," he said.

Volunteers are also extending their support.

Ben Babauta offered the services of the Rotary Club of Saipan for one of the aid stations.

"That was just amazing! I am so very thankful for the support that the Rotarians have offered. They continuously provide support to our community but this was the first time I was directly affected," Ruszala said.

The event will start at 5:30am.

Runners for the Off-Road Half-Marathon will take off at from Banzai Cliff area toward the last Japanese Command Post, then turn right toward Chalan Pale Arnold and FEBC site.

From there, the runners will continue along the coral road behind the Marianas Resort Golf Course then past the 1,000,000-gallon water tank as they will turn left along the paved road.

When they reach the intersection that leads to the old radar station, the runners will continue straight onto the coral road that will lead them down past the firing range and Kalabera Cave.

The runners will continue along that coral road and continue along the final paved section when they reach the Bird Island Lookout.

Next they will turn right at the intersection that leads down to the Grotto and take leave of the road with a left hand turn onto the trail known as Santa Claus Lane.

That trail will intersect with the Fun Run course along the road to Cowtown. From that point, both groups of runners will follow the course below the Cowtown raceway for the final mile and a half to the finish line at Banzai Cliff.

The short course runners will start the same way but turn left when they reach the Last Japanese Command Post. They will turn left again at the fork in the road that leads to the Cowtown Raceway.

CNMI

From Page 28

with co-sponsorship by Deloitte and Ching Fu.

Other sponsors include ALRO, ACE International, Bank of Marshall Islands, Do it Best, ePacific, JoeMar Construction, KOOs, MALGov, Matson, MEC, MI Shipping Corporation, MIDB, MIMRA, MIR, MIVA, NTA, Office of the President, Pepsi, PII, RMI Ports Authority, RRE Hotel, Republic of China Taiwan, TCMI, and V7AB. Both the RRE Hotel and the Marshall Islands Resort also offered discount packages for visitors.

Aside from Saipan and RMI, anglers from Japan, Taiwan, Guam, Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae, and Samoa also took part in the two-day competition.

Total cash prize awarded during the Budweiser 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament was $6,000.

NEW

From Page 28

Scott would be visiting various schools on Saipan today and tomorrow where he will be joined by officers and members of the Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association.

Students would have the opportunity to learn basic information and techniques of the game from this rare visit.

Saturday's clinic will be from 2pm to 7pm for children and beginners.

Scott's four-day trip to the CNMI is through the efforts of MATTA headed by the association's president Steve Lim.

Scott, who is from Australia, assumed the position of OTTF development officer on Jan. 1, 2009.

He replaced New Zealand's Andrew Hubbard, who has occupied the position since 2006.

Houston holds a Level II Australian Coaching Accreditation and has been active in the coaching field during the past four years.

He is the current Oceania men's doubles and South Australia men's singles champion.

He has held a High Performance Scholarship with the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) for the past three years and has recently he completed his ITTF/PTT Level One Course Conductor training in Cyprus.

Hi extensive competitive experiences include playing in Germany, China, and Austria.

He also spent his training camp for three times at the famous Training Centre in Chengdu, China.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	90	50	.643	–
Boston	80	58	.580	9
Tampa Bay	72	67	.518	17 1/2
Toronto	62	76	.449	27
Baltimore	56	82	.406	33

Central Division

Detroit	75	62	.547	–
Minnesota	69	69	.500	6 1/2
Chicago	69	71	.493	7 1/2
Cleveland	60	78	.435	15 1/2
Kansas City	53	85	.384	22 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	82	55	.599	–
Texas	78	60	.565	4 1/2
Seattle	72	67	.518	11
Oakland	62	76	.449	20 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	78	58	.574	–
Florida	73	65	.529	6
Atlanta	71	67	.514	8
New York	62	76	.449	17
Washington	47	91	.341	32

Central Division

St. Louis	83	57	.593	–
Chicago	70	67	.511	11 1/2
Houston	67	71	.486	15
Milwaukee	66	72	.478	16
Cincinnati	63	75	.457	19
Pittsburgh	54	83	.394	27 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	57	.593	–
Colorado	79	60	.568	3 1/2
San Francisco	76	63	.547	6 1/2
San Diego	62	78	.443	21
Arizona	61	79	.436	22

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 9, Pittsburgh 4
Philadelphia 5, Washington 3
Florida 4, N.Y. Mets 2
Atlanta 2, Houston 1
St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 3
Colorado 3, Cincinnati 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Arizona 4
San Diego 4, San Francisco 3
Texas 11, Cleveland 9, 1st game
N.Y. Yankees 3, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 6, Minnesota 3
Boston 10, Baltimore 0
Kansas City 7, Detroit 5
Oakland 11, Chicago White Sox 3
Texas 10, Cleveland 5, 2nd game
L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 2, 10 innings

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sparks	3	0
Sonics	2	0
G-Stars	2	0
Runnin' Rebels	2	0
Sixers	2	0
Rollers 1	1	1
670 Rollers 2	1	1
Saints	0	2
Ol'Aces	0	2
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	2
Celtics	0	3

Quality Cup Junior Tennis Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Chris Park won the gold medal in the boys' 12-and-under singles of the Quality Cup Junior Tennis Tournament in Guam after running roughshod over Sean Saltzgaber, 8-0.

Clayton Izuka took home the silver medal in both the singles and doubles of the boys' 10-and-under division.

Kennedy Izuka in action in the boys' 12-and-under division.

Alex Park won a silver medal while teaming up with Clayton Izuka in the doubles of the boys' 10-and-under division.

Clayton Izuka and Alex Park pose with their opponents in the finals of the boys' 10-and-under doubles.

Kennedy Izuka lost his first round match in the boys' 12-and-under division against Sean Saltzgaber.

Sakura Imaya won not one but two gold medals—the girls' 10-and-under singles as well as the age group's doubles tiara with Gio Hur.

Alex Park also saw action in the boys' 12-and-under singles.

Sakura Imaya defeated Seki Kana for the girls' 10-and-under singles tiara.

Clayton Izuka lost in the gold medal game of the boys' 10-and-under division after bowing to Derek Okuhama.

Sparks seize solo lead, beat Celtics

Eugene Manglona scattered 20 points as the Kagman Sparks defeated the lowly Celtics in a low-scoring ballgame in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Murray's US Open ends early; Clijsters-Williams II

Disappointed. That was the word Andy Murray used over and over to describe how he felt about his exit from the U.S. Open.

24

CNMI anglers top Majuro fishing tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A crew made up mostly of anglers from Saipan ruled the Budweiser 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament held Sept. 5 and 6 in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands.

Dubbed Team CNMI, the Gary Sword-skippered team used the boats *True Blue* and *XXX* during the two days of the competition in the crystal clear waters of the Marshall Islands.

With Jon Deloso of Continental Airlines serving as lead angler and RMI Finance Minister Jack Ading assisting, Team CNMI managed to reel in the most points with 981.

A far second was the Lee Pennington-captained Kwajalein Lajkaan with 589 points, while Cockroaches of skipper Floyd Corder came in third with 514 points.

Team CNMI was able to grab the No. 1 spot in the competition after placing first in the Billfish Class, Wahoo Class, and the Tag-n-Release Marlin Class.

Sword and company caught this year's heaviest billfish that tipped the scales at 552 lbs., followed by USA Vermont's 343-pounder and the 338-lb. billfish submitted by Kwajalein Tight Lines.

Team CNMI, meanwhile, narrowly beat Marshalls Billfish Club in the Wahoo Class with its 29-lb. catch. The former reeled in a fish that weighed 28 lbs. Kwajalein Lajkaan settled for third place with its 27-lb. catch.

It then finished tied with Pohnpei Fishing Club #1 in the Tag-n-Release Marlin Class with their identical 200 points.

USA Vermont topped the Mahimahi Class with its 7-lb. catch, while Team CNMI was only able to reel in a 6-pounder. The former also won the Barracuda Class with its 26-lb. catch, followed by Cockroaches (20 lbs.) and Kwajalein Lajkaan (17 lbs.).

Kwajalein Lajkaan was No. 1 in the Tuna Class after landing a 94-pounder. Cockroaches came in second with its 86-lb. haul.

The major sponsor of the 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament is Budweiser (Ambros-Guam)

See CNMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Captain Gary Sword proudly raises the Commonwealth flag after Team CNMI topped the Budweiser 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament held in the crystal clear waters of the Republic of Marshall Islands over the weekend.

Jr. netters triumph in Guam tilt

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chris Park in action in last weekend's Quality Cup Junior Tennis Tournament in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sakura Imaya and Gio Hur pose after their walkover victory in the finals of the girls' 10-and-under doubles division.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Youth netters from Saipan made their home islands proud after taking home five medals—three of them gold—in the Quality Cup Junior Tennis Tournament held last weekend in Guam.

Leading the list of winners was Chris Park who lorded it over the boys' 12-and-under singles division after winning the gold medal.

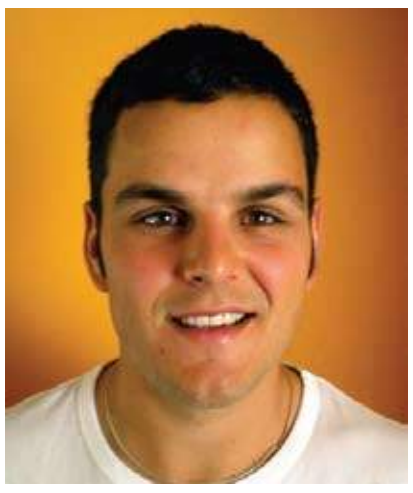
Park started the competition on the right foot as he handily beat Ye Lishe, 8-2, to advance the semifinals.

He then booked a place in the championship round following a hard-fought 8-4 victory over Justin Johnson. In the finals, Park made mincemeat of Sean Saltzgaber and won via shutout, 8-0.

Also striking gold were female junior netters Sakura Imaya and Gio Hur. Imaya won her first gold medal after beating Seki Kana, 8-0, in the

See JR. NETTERS on Page 26

New OTTF officer to hold ping-pong clinic Saturday



Houston

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Scott Houston, the new development officer of the Oceania Table Tennis Federation, will be conducting a ping-pong clinic this Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The clinic is part of Houston's road tour in the region.

He is expected to arrive today from Guam. Saipan is his last stop after visiting four other areas.

He was previously in the other Oceania zone areas such as Fiji, New Caledonia, Kiribati, and Palau, where he also held similar table tennis lessons.

See NEW on Page 26

Sponsors pour in for Powerade Banzai Cliff Marathon

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A total of 26 sponsors have already committed financial and in-kind support for this Saturday's 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Off-Road Half Marathon.

Organizer Brad Ruszala of IT&E said this is 12 more than last year's 14 and more people and companies are still inquiring how they could help with the event.

So far, Powerade, Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway, Glimpses, Northern Marianas Athletics, Marianas Visitors Authority, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, XTERRA Saipan Championship, Taga Inc., Michelob Ultra, S. Joshua Berger, The Athlete's Foot, All-Star Sporting Goods, Shell Marianas, Gorilla Warfare MMA, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marianas Eye Institute, Konflikt, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center, Digital Motion, TopNotch, Rotary Club of Saipan, and Beautify CNMI have signed up as sponsors of th event.

"This is truly amazing! I am overwhelmed with the amount of support that we've received from the business community this time around and we've really only just begun our fund raising efforts," Ruszala said.

Proceeds of this year's event would be used

See SPONSORS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Organizer Brad Ruszala of IT&E receives a $500 check from Bank of Saipan president Jon Bargfrede as bank employees Martin Dela Cruz and Zerah Santos hold the company's banner.